# Appropriation: Management of Lands and Resources

**APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE SHEET**

For necessary expenses for protection, use, improvement, development, disposal, cadastral surveying, classification, acquisition of easements and other interests in lands, and performance of other functions, including maintenance of facilities, as authorized by law, in the management of lands and their resources under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, including the general administration of the Bureau, and assessment of mineral potential of public lands pursuant to Public Law 96-487 (16 U.S.C. 3150(a)), [$848,939,000] *$850,177,000*, to remain available until expended, of which $1,000,000 is for high priority projects, to be carried out by the Youth Conservation Corps; [$4,000,000 is for assessment of the mineral potential of public lands in Alaska pursuant to section 1010 of Public Law 96-487; (16 U.S.C. 3150); and of which not to exceed $1,000,000 shall be derived from the special receipt account established by the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460l-6a(i))]; and of which [$3,500,000] *$3,000,000* shall be available in fiscal year [2005] *2006* subject to a match by at least an equal amount by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for cost-shared projects supporting conservation of Bureau lands; and such funds shall be advanced to the Foundation as a lump sum grant without regard to when expenses are incurred: *Provided further, That of the amount appropriated, $19,996,000 shall be derived from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.*

In addition, $32,696,000 is for Mining Law Administration program operations, including the cost of administering the mining claim fee program; to remain available until expended, to be reduced by amounts collected by the Bureau and credited to this appropriation from annual mining claim fees so as to result in a final appropriation estimated at not more than [$848,939,000] *$850,177,000*, and $2,000,000, to remain available until expended, from communication site rental fees established by the Bureau for the cost of administering communication site activities. (Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2005.)

## AUTHORIZATIONS

***General Authorizing Legislation -*** The following authorize the general activities of the Bureau of Land Management or govern the manner in which BLM's activities are conducted.

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| ***Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946, §403*** | Establishes the BLM. |
| ***Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)*** | Outlines functions of the BLM Directorate, provides for administration of public lands through the BLM, provides for management of the public lands on a multiple-use basis, and requires land-use planning including public involvement and a continuing inventory of resources. The Act establishes as public policy that, in general, the public lands will remain in Federal ownership, and also authorizes:<br>• Acquisition of land or interests in lands consistent with the mission of the Department and land use plans;<br>• Permanent appropriation of road use fees collected from commercial road users, to be used for road maintenance;<br>• Collection of service charges, damages, and contributions and the use of funds for specified purposes;<br>• Protection of resource values;<br>• Preservation of certain lands in their natural condition;<br>• Compliance with pollution control laws;<br>• Delineation of boundaries in which the Federal government has right, title, or interest;<br>• Review of land classifications in land use planning; and modification or termination of land classifications when consistent with land use plans;<br>• Sale of lands if the sale meets certain disposal criteria;<br>• Issuance, modification, or revocation of withdrawals;<br>• Review of certain withdrawals by October 1991;<br>• Exchange or conveyance of public lands if in the public interest;<br>• Outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use;<br>• Management of the use, occupancy, and development of the public lands through leases and permits;<br>• Designation of Federal personnel to carry out law enforcement responsibilities;<br>• Determination of the suitability of public lands for rights-of-way purposes (other than oil and gas pipelines) and specification of the boundaries of each right-of-way;<br>• Recordation of mining claims and reception of evidence of annual assessment work. |
| ***National Environmental Policy Act of 196) (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.)*** | Requires the preparation of environmental impact statements for Federal projects which may have a significant effect on the environment. It requires systematic, interdisciplinary planning to ensure the integrated use of the natural and social sciences and the environmental design arts in making decisions about major Federal actions that may have a significant effect on the environment. |

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| ***The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.)*** | Directs Federal agencies to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize threatened and endangered species and that through their authority they help bring about the recovery of these species. |
| ***P. L. 107-13*** | Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to use funds appropriated for wildland fire management in the *2001 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act* to reimburse the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service to facilitate the interagency cooperation required under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 in connection with wildland fire management. Authority extended in the *2002 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act*. |
| ***An Act to Amend the Reclamation Recreation Management Act of 1992 (P.L. 107-69)*** | Provides for the security of dams, facilities and resources under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation. Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to authorize law enforcement personnel from the Department of the Interior to enforce Federal laws and regulations within a Reclamation Project or on Reclamation lands. |
| ***The Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (5 U. S. C. 1701)*** | Requires each executive agency to conduct a continuing program to eliminate the under-representation of minorities and women in professional, administrative, technical, clerical, and other blue collar employment categories within the Federal services. |
| ***The Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000)*** | Requires development and maintenance of affirmative action programs to ensure non-discrimination in any employment activity. |
| ***The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520)*** | Provides national Federal information policy, and requires that automatic data processing and telecommunication technologies be acquired and used to improve services, delivery, and productivity, and to reduce the information processing burden for the Federal government and the general public. |
| ***The Computer Security Act of 1987 (40 U.S.C. 759)*** | Requires adoption and implementation of security plans for sensitive information systems to ensure adequate protections and management of Federal data. |
| ***The Electronic FOIA Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-231)*** | Requires that government offices make more information available in electronic format to the public. |
| ***The Information Technology Management Reform Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-106 §5001)*** | Requires agencies more effectively use Information Technology to improve mission performance and service to the public, and strengthen the quality of decisions about technology and mission needs through integrated planning, budgeting, and evaluation. |
| ***The Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990 (U.S.C. 501)*** | Requires that a Chief Financial Officer be appointed by the Director of OMB and that this CFO will provide for the production of complete, reliable, timely and consistent financial information for |

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| | use by the executive branch of the Government and the Congress in the financing, management, and evaluation of Federal programs. |
| ***The Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-62)*** | Requires 10 federal agencies to launch a 3-year pilot project beginning in 1994, to develop annual performance plans that specify measurable goals, and produce annual reports showing how they are achieving those goals. |
| ***P.L. 101-512, November 5, 1990*** | Authorizes BLM to negotiate and enter into cooperative arrangements with public and private agencies, organizations, institutions, and individuals to implement challenge cost-share programs. |

***Specific Authorizing Legislation*** **-** In addition to the above laws that provide general authorization and parameters, a number of laws authorize specific program activities, or activities in specific or designated areas.

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| ***Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1977 (42 U.S.C. 201)*** | Requires compliance with all Federal, State, or local statutes for safe drinking water. |
| ***Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Act Amendment of 1984 (43 U.S.C. 1593)*** | Directs the Department to undertake research and develop demonstration projects to identify methods to improve the water quality of the Colorado River. The amendment requires BLM to develop a comprehensive salinity control program, and to undertake advanced planning on the Sinbad Valley Unit. |
| ***National Dam Inspection Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 467)*** | Requires the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, to carry out a dam inspection program to protect human life and property. |
| ***Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 (16 U.S.C. 2001)*** | Provides for conservation, protection and enhancement of soil, water, and related resources. |
| ***The Clean Air Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401, 7642)*** | Requires BLM to protect air quality, maintain Federal and State designated air quality standards, and abide by the requirements of the State implementation plans. |
| ***The Clean Water Act of 1987, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1251)*** | Establishes objectives to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's water. |
| ***Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 (43 U.S.C. 315), as amended by the Act of August 28, 1937 (43 U.S.C. 1181d)*** | Authorizes the establishment of grazing districts, regulation and administration of grazing on the public lands, and improvement of the public rangelands. It also authorizes the Secretary to accept contributions for the administration, protection, and improvement of grazing lands, and establishment of a trust fund to be used for these purposes. |
| ***Bankhead Jones Farm*** | Authorizes management of acquired farm tenant lands, and |

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| ***Tenant Act of 1937 (7 U.S.C. 1010 et seq.)*** | construction and maintenance of range improvements. It directs the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a program of land conservation and utilization to adjust land use to help control soil erosion, conduct reforestation, preserve natural resources, develop and protect recreational facilities, protect watersheds, and protect public health and safety. |
| ***Carlson-Foley Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 1241-1243)*** | Authorizes BLM to reimburse States for expenditures associated with coordinated control of noxious plants. |
| ***Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971, as amended by the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1331-1340), and by P.L. 108-447, Division E, Section 142*** | Provides for the management, protection and control of wild horses and burros on public lands and authorizes adoption of wild horses and burros by private individuals. |
| ***Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978 (43 U.S.C. 1901-1908)*** | Provides for the improvement of range conditions to assure that rangelands become as productive as feasible for watershed protection, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and other rangeland values. The act also authorizes:<br>• Research on wild horse and burro population dynamics, and facilitates the humane adoption or disposal of excess wild free roaming horses and burros, and<br>• Appropriation of $10 million or 50 percent of all moneys received as grazing fees, whichever is greater, notwithstanding the amount of fees collected. |
| ***The Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2814)*** | Provides for the designation of a lead office and a person trained in the management of undesirable plants; establishment and funding of an undesirable plant management program; completion and implementation of cooperative agreements with State agencies; and establishment of integrated management systems to control undesirable plant species. |
| ***Noxious Weed Control Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-412)*** | Establishes a program to provide assistance through States to eligible weed management entities to control or eradicate harmful, nonnative weeds on public and private lands. |
| ***The Historic Sites Act (16 U.S.C. 461)*** | Declares national policy to identify and preserve historic sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national significance, providing a foundation for the National Register of Historic Places. |
| ***The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470)*** | Expands protection of historic and archaeological properties to include those of national, State and local significance. It also directs Federal agencies to consider the effects of proposed actions on properties eligible for or included in the National Register of Historic Places. |

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| ***The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470a, 470cc and 470ee)*** | Requires permits for the excavation or removal of Federally administered archaeological resources, encourages increased cooperation among Federal agencies and private individuals, provides stringent criminal and civil penalties for violations, and requires Federal agencies to identify important resources vulnerable to looting and to develop a tracking system for violations. |
| ***The Chacoan Culture Preservation Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 410; ii)*** | Provides for preservation, protection, research, and interpretation of the Chacoan system, including 33 archaeological protection sites, located throughout the San Juan Basin on public, State, Indian and private lands. |
| ***The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. 3001)*** | Requires agencies to inventory archaeological and ethnological collections in their possession or control (which includes non-federal museums) for human remains, associated funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony; identify them geographically and culturally; and notify appropriate tribes within 5 years. |
| ***Native American Technical Corrections Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-204, Title II)*** | Placed in trust for the Pueblo of Santa Clara in New Mexico approximately 2,484 acres of BLM-managed land. Placed in trust for the Pueblo of San Ildefonso in New Mexico approximately 2,000 acres of BLM-managed land. |
| ***Galisteo Basin (New Mexico) Archaeological Sites Protection Act (P.L. 108-208)*** | Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to administer the designated sites under this Act and other laws to protect, preserve, provide for research on, and maintain these archaeological resources. |
| ***The Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1929, as amended (16 U.S.C. 715) and treaties pertaining thereto*** | Provides for habitat protection and enhancement of protected migratory birds. |
| ***The Sikes Act of 1974, as amended (16 U.S.C. 670 et seq.)*** | Provides for the conservation, restoration, and management of species and their habitats in cooperation with State wildlife agencies. |
| ***The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.)*** | Provides for the special designation of certain public lands in Alaska and conservation of their fish and wildlife values; management for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on public lands by residents of rural Alaska; and protection of the wildlife resources on North Slope lands impacted by oil and gas exploration and development activities. |
| ***The Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (30 U.S.C. 1201 et seq.)*** | Provides that lands may be declared unsuitable for surface coal mining where significant adverse impacts could result to certain wildlife species. |

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| ***The Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.)*** | Provides for the designation and preservation of Wilderness Areas. |
| ***The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.)*** | Provides for the establishment of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, special BLM accounts in the Treasury, the collection and disposition of recreation fees, the authorization for appropriation of recreation fee receipts, and other purposes. Authorizes planning, acquisition, and development of needed land and water areas and facilities. |
| ***The Arkansas-Idaho Land Exchange Act of 1992 (P.L. 102-584)*** | Authorizes the Secretary to enter into land exchanges for certain purposes. |
| ***The Utah School Lands Act (P.L. 103-93)*** | Authorizes the Secretary to enter into land exchanges for certain purposes. |
| ***The King Range National Conservation Area Act of 1970, as amended (P.L. 91-476) (16 U.S.C. 460y)*** | Provides for management and development of the King Range National Conservation Area for recreational and other multiple-use purposes. It authorizes the Secretary to enter into land exchanges and to acquire lands or interests in lands within the national conservation area. |
| ***Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (P.L. 96-487) (16 USC 460mm)*** | Established the Steese National Conservation Area to be managed by the BLM. |
| ***National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 Amendment (P.L. 101-628)*** | Establishes the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area in the State of Oregon in order to protect the unique scenic, scientific, educational, and recreational values of such lands. Requires the Secretary of the Interior to develop a management plan for such Area. The Secretary of the Interior shall manage the monument through the Bureau of Land Management. |
| ***Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 – Title II – Designation of the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area (P.L. 101-628) (16 USC 460ddd)*** | Establishes the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area. The Secretary of the Interior shall manage the monument through the Bureau of Land Management. |
| ***The Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-64) (16 USC 460iii)*** | Establishes the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, Idaho, to provide for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of raptor populations, habitats, and associated natural resources and of the scientific, cultural, and educational resources of the public lands. Requires the Secretary of the Interior to finalize a new comprehensive management plan for the Area. Authorizes the Secretary, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, to |

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| | establish a visitor's center to interpret the history and geological, ecological, natural, cultural and other resources of the Area and biology of the raptors and their relationships to humans. |
| ***The Land Use Planning Act (P. L. 94-579), as amended by the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-433) (43 USC 1781)*** | Establishes boundaries and management responsibilities for areas in the California Desert, and establishes 69 new Wilderness Areas. |
| ***An Act to Establish the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area in Nevada (P.L. 101-621) as amended by 107-282 (16 U.S.C. 460ccc)*** | Provides for the conservation, protection, and enhancement of cultural and natural resources values by the BLM within the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area. |
| ***An Act to Establish the El Malpais National Monument and the El Malpais National Conservation Area in New Mexico, P.L. 100-225 (16 U.S.C. 460uu 21)*** | Provides for the protection and management of natural and cultural resource values within the El Malpais National Conservation Area by the BLM. |
| ***An Act to Provide for the Designation and Conservation of Certain Lands in Arizona and Idaho(P.L. 100-696) (16 U.S.C. 460xx)*** | Establishes the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area in Arizona and provides for management and development for recreation and other multiple-use purposes. |
| ***Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area Act of 1999 (6 USC 410fff), as amended (PL 106-76 & 108-128)*** | Establishes the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area to be managed by the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management. PL 108-128 amended the boundaries or the National Conservation Area. |
| ***Black Rock Desert/High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area Act of 2000, as amended, (P.L. 106-554 & P.L. 107-63). (16 U.S.C. 460ppp)*** | Establishes the Black Rock Desert/High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area in Nevada, to be managed by the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management. |
| ***Colorado Canyons*** | Establishes the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area |

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| ***National Conservation Area and Black Ridge Canyon Wilderness Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 460mmm, P.L. 106-353 ), as amended by P.L. 108-400 (43 USC 460mmm)*** | (formerly Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area) and Black Ridge Canyon Wilderness Area in Colorado, to be managed by the BLM. |
| ***Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Act (P.L. 106-538) (16 U.S.C. 460ooo)*** | Establishes the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area in Arizona, to be managed by the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management. |
| ***Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-351) (16 U.S.C. 431)*** | Establishes the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument in California, to be managed by the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management |
| ***Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-399) (16 U.S.C. 460nnn)*** | Establishes the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area in Oregon, to be managed by the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management |
| ***Otay Mountain Wilderness Act of 1999*** | Establishes the Otay Mountain Wilderness Area in California, to managed by the Secretary, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management |
| ***Presidential Proclamation 6920 of 1996*** | Established the Grand Staircase - Escalante National Monument, to be managed by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management. |
| ***Presidential Proclamation 7265 of 2000*** | Established the Grand Canyon - Parashant National Monument. The Secretary of the Interior shall manage the monument through the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. The Bureau of Land Management shall have primary management authority for those portions of the Monument outside of the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. |
| ***Presidential Proclamation 7264 of 2000*** | Established the California Coastal National Monument. The Secretary of the Interior shall manage the monument through the Bureau of Land Management. |
| ***Presidential Proclamation 7263 of 2000*** | Established the Agua Fria National Monument. The Secretary of the Interior shall manage the monument through the Bureau of Land Management. |
| ***P.L. 107-30*** | Provides further protections for the watershed of the Little Sandy River as part of the Bull Run Watershed Management Unit, Oregon, and adds responsibilities for the Secretary of the Interior and the |

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| | Bureau of Land Management. |
| ***The National Trails System Act of 1968, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1241-1249)*** | Establishes a national trails system and requires that Federal rights in abandoned railroads be retained for trail or recreation purposes, or sold with the receipts to be deposited in the LWCF. |
| ***The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.)*** | Provides for the development and management of certain rivers. Authorizes the Secretary to exchange or dispose of suitable Federally-owned property for non-Federal property within the authorized boundaries of any Federally-administered component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. |
| ***The National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 1242-1243)*** | Establishes a number of national historic trails which cross public lands. |
| ***The Federal Cave Resource Protection Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 4301)*** | Provides for the protection of caves on lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary, and the Secretary of Agriculture. Establishes terms and conditions for use permits, and penalties for violations. |
| ***The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, (30 U.S.C. 181, et seq.)*** | Provides for leasing of coal, phosphate, sodium, potassium, oil, gas, oil shale, native asphalt, solid and semi-solid bitumen, bituminous rock, and gilsonite on lands containing such deposits owned by the U.S., including those in National Forests, but excluding those within the national petroleum and oil shale reserves. It preserves the right of pre-1920 oil shale mining claims to be patented, mandates a broad spectrum of requirements for lease management, and authorizes the Secretary to determine suitability of public lands for oil and gas pipeline rights-of-way. |
| ***The Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947 (30 U.S.C. 351-359)*** | Provides for the leasing of coal, phosphate, sodium, potassium, oil, gas, oil shale, and sulfur which are owned or acquired by the U.S. and which are within the lands acquired by the U.S., with the consent of the head of the agency having jurisdiction over the lands containing such deposits. It provides that all mineral leasing receipts derived from leases under this act shall be paid into the same funds or accounts in the Treasury and shall be distributed in the same manner as prescribed for other receipts from the lands affected by the lease. The intention is that this act shall not affect the distribution of receipts pursuant to legislation applicable to such lands. |
| ***The Trans-Alaska Pipeline Act of 1973 (30 U.S.C. 185)*** | Authorizes the Secretary to determine suitability of public lands for oil and gas pipeline rights-of-way, and issue rights-of-way and other land use authorizations related to the Trans-Alaska pipeline. Rights-of-way applicants and permittees are to reimburse the U.S. for all costs associated with processing applications and monitoring pipeline construction and operations. |
| ***The Alaska Natural Gas*** | Authorizes the granting of certificates, rights-of-way, permits, and |

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| ***Transportation Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. 719)*** | leases. |
| ***Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline Act (P.L. 108-324, Division C)*** | Authorizes the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to evaluate applications for a pipeline to transport gas from Alaska through Canada to the United States. Requires the BLM to participate in the NEPA process. |
| ***The Materials Act of 1947, as amended (30 U.S.C. 601-604 et seq.)*** | Provides for the sale of common variety materials for personal, commercial, or industrial uses and for free use for local, State, and Federal governmental entities. |
| ***The Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (30 U.S.C. 1701) (FOGRMA)*** | Comprehensive law dealing with royalty management on Federal and Indian leases. In addition to revenue accountability, it includes provisions pertaining to onshore field operations, inspections, and cooperation with State and Indian tribes; duties of lessees and other lease interest owners, transporters, and purchasers of oil and gas; reinstatement of onshore leases terminated by operation of law; and a requirement that the Secretary study whether royalties are adequate for coal, uranium, and non-energy leasable minerals. |
| ***Energy Policy and Conservation Act Amendments of 2000 (P.L. 106-469, Section 604) –*** | Directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy, to conduct an inventory of all onshore Federal lands to determine reserve estimates of oil and gas resources underlying the lands and the extent and nature of any impediments to development of the oil and gas resources. |
| ***The Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987 (30 U.S.C. 226, et seq.)*** | Establishes a new oil and gas leasing system, and changes certain operational procedures for onshore Federal lands. |
| ***The Combined Hydrocarbon Leasing Act of 1981 (30 U.S.C. 181, 351)*** | Permits the owners of oil and gas leases issued after November 16, 1981, to explore, develop, and produce tar sands. Authorizes the issuance of combined hydrocarbon leases in specified areas designated by the Department of the Interior on November 20, 1980. |
| ***Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946, §402 (60 Stat. 1099)*** | Transferred mineral leasing functions to the Secretary, from the Secretary of Agriculture, for certain acquired lands. |
| ***The Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 1981 (42 U.S.C. 6508)*** | Provides for competitive leasing of oil and gas in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. |
| ***The Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976 (30 U.S.C. 201, et seq.)*** | Requires competitive leasing of coal on public lands, and mandates a broad spectrum of coal operations requirements for lease management. |

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| ***The Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 21a)*** | Establishes policy of fostering development of economically stable mining and minerals industries, their orderly and economic development, and studying methods for disposal of waste and reclamation. |
| ***The Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001)*** | Authorizes the Secretary to issue leases for the development of geothermal resources. |
| ***The Geothermal Steam Act Amendments of 1988*** | Lists significant thermal features within the National Park System requiring protection, provides for lease extensions and continuation of leases beyond their primary terms, and requires periodic review of cooperative or unit plans of development. |
| ***The Act of March 3, 1879, as amended (43 U.S.C. 31(a))*** | Provides for the inventory and classification of the public lands, and examination of the geologic structure, mineral resources, and products of the national domain. |
| ***The Act of March 3, 1909, as amended, and the Act of May 11, 1938 (25 U.S.C. 396, 396(a))*** | Provides the basic mandate under which BLM supervises minerals operations on Indian Lands. Provides that lands allotted to Indians, and unallotted tribal Indian lands, may be leased for mining purposes, as deemed advisable by the Secretary. |
| ***The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) (43 U.S.C. 1612)*** | Requires the survey of Alaska Native lands for conveyance to Native corporations and individuals. |
| ***The Alaska Statehood Act, as amended (48 U.S.C. Chap. 2 note)*** | Requires the survey of lands for conveyance to the State. |
| ***The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.)*** | Provides for the designation and conservation of certain public lands in Alaska. BLM responsibilities include six Wild and Scenic Rivers, nine study rivers, one National Conservation Area, one National Recreation Area, and one National Scenic Highway. |
| ***Alaska Land Acceleration Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-452)*** | Reduces the delays that exist in the adjudication and conveyance of Alaska Native Allotments, State and other land entitlements that are authorized under the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906, the Alaska Native Claims Act, and the Alaska Statehood Act. |
| ***Alaska Native Allotment Subdivision Act (P.L. 108-337)*** | Allows Native Alaskans to subdivide their restricted allotment lands with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. |
| ***43 U.S.C. 2*** | Provides that the Secretary shall perform all executive duties pertaining to the surveying and sale of public lands, private claims of public lands, and the issuing of patents for all grants of land under the authority of the Government. |

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| ***43 U.S.C. 52*** | Provides that the Secretary shall cause all public lands to be surveyed and monumented, that all private land claims shall be surveyed after they have been confirmed, and that the Secretary shall transmit plats of all lands surveyed to such officers as he may designate. |
| ***Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act of 1988 (43 U.S.C. 1716)*** | Amends FLPMA to provide for the streamlining of Federal land exchange procedures. |
| ***Oregon Land Exchange Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-257)*** | Authorizes exchange of specified parcels of public and national forest lands in Oregon for specified parcels of private lands. |
| ***Healthy Forests Restoration Act (P.L. 108-148) -*** | Authorized the BLM and the U.S. Forest Service to conduct hazardous fuel reduction projects on federal land in wildland-urban interface areas and on certain other federal lands using expedited procedures. |
| ***Utah West Desert Land Exchange Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-301)*** | Authorizes exchange of public lands for certain lands owned by the State of Utah within existing and proposed Wilderness Study Areas in the West Desert Region of Utah. |
| ***The Desert Land Act of 1877 (43 U.S.C. 321-323)*** | Provides authority to reclaim arid and semi-arid public lands of the western States through individual effort and private capital. |
| ***The Act of August 30, 1949, as amended (43 U.S.C. 687(b))*** | Authorizes the Secretary to dispose of public lands, and certain withdrawn Federal lands in Alaska, that are classified as suitable for housing and industrial or commercial purposes. |
| ***The Act of May 24, 1928, as amended (49 U.S.C. App. 211-213)*** | Authorizes the Secretary to lease contiguous unappropriated public lands (not to exceed 2,560 acres) for a public airport. |
| ***The Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982 (49 U.S.C. 2215)*** | Authorizes conveyance of lands to public agencies for use as airports and airways. |
| ***The Engle Act of February 28, 1958 (43 U.S.C. 156)*** | Provides that withdrawals for the Department of Defense for more than 5,000 acres shall be made by Congress. |
| ***The Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926, as amended (43 U.S.C. 869)*** | Authorizes the Secretary to classify public lands for lease or sale for recreation or public purposes. |
| ***The R&PP Amendment Act of 1988*** | Provides that suitable public lands may be made available for use as solid waste disposal sites, in a manner that will protect the U.S. against unforeseen liability. |
| ***The Burton-Santini Act (P.L. 96-586)*** | Authorizes the Secretary to sell not more than 700 acres of public lands per calendar year in and around Las Vegas, Nevada. The proceeds are to be used to acquire environmentally sensitive lands |

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| | in the Lake Tahoe Basin of California and Nevada. |
| ***The Federal Power Act of 1920, as amended (16 U.S.C. 818)*** | Allows other uses of Federal waterpower withdrawals with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approval. |
| ***Indian Self Determination And Education Assistance Act (P.L. 93-638)*** | Provides for non-competitive contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements entered into between a tribal organization and the Federal government for the planning, conduct, and administration of programs which enhance Indian educational achievement or provide other Federal services more responsive to the needs and desires of those communities. |
| ***The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act as amended by Federal Facility Compliance Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 6901-6992)*** | Authorizes EPA to manage, by regulation, hazardous wastes on active disposal operations. Waives sovereign immunity for Federal agencies with respect to all Federal, State, and local solid and hazardous waste laws and regulations. Makes Federal agencies subject to civil and administrative penalties for violations, and to cost assessments for the administration of the enforcement. |
| ***The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 9601-9673)*** | Provides for liability, risk assessment, compensation, emergency response, and cleanup (including the cleanup of inactive sites) for hazardous substances. Requires Federal agencies to report sites where hazardous wastes are or have been stored, treated, or disposed, and requires responsible parties, including Federal agencies, to clean-up releases of hazardous substances. |
| ***Community Environmental Response Facilitations Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 9620(h))*** | Amendment to the *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980*, as amended, which expands on the risk assessment requirements for land transfers and disposal. |
| ***The Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11001-11050)*** | Requires the private sector to inventory chemicals and chemical products, to report those in excess of threshold planning quantities, to inventory emergency response equipment, to provide annual reports and support to local and State emergency response organizations, and to maintain a liaison with the local and state emergency response organizations and the public. |
| ***The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13101-13109)*** | Requires and encourages prevention and reduction of waste streams and other pollution through minimization, process change, and recycling. Encourages and requires development of new technology and markets to meet the objectives. |
| ***The Food Security Act of 1985 (7 U.S.C. 148f)*** | Provides for the transfer of funds to the Secretary of Agriculture for Mormon cricket and grasshopper control. |
| ***The General Mining Law of 1872, as amended (30*** | Provides for locating and patenting mining claims where a discovery has been made for locatable minerals on public lands in specified |

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| ***U.S.C. 22, et seq.), as amended by P.L. 108-447, Division E, Section 120, (30 U.S.C. 23 et seq.)*** | States, mostly in the western U.S. |
| ***The Act of March 3, 1879, as amended, (43 U.S.C. 31(a))*** | Provides for the inventory and classification of the public lands, and examination of the mineral resources and products of the national domain. |
| ***The Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970, (30 U.S.C. 21a) (30 U.S.C. 1601, et seq.)*** | Sets out the policy of fostering development of economically stable mining and mineral industries, and studying methods for waste disposal and reclamation. |
| ***The Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for 1989 (43 U.S.C. 1474)*** | Provides that receipts for 1989 and thereafter from administrative fees (service charges) established by the Secretary for processing actions relating to the administration of the General Mining Laws shall be immediately available to BLM for mining law administration program operations. |
| ***The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (P.L. 103-66)*** | Establishes an annual $100 per claim maintenance fee for unpatented mining claims and sites through 1998. The law allows a waiver from the fee for those claimants who hold 10 or fewer claims. It also establishes a $25 per claim location fee for new claims, to be paid when they are recorded with BLM. The Act also broadened the BLM's authority to collect recreation use fees. |
| ***Executive Order 12906*** | The executive branch is developing, in cooperation with State, local, and tribal governments, and the private sector, a coordinated National Spatial Data Infrastructure to support public and private sector applications of geospatial data. BLM is charged with developing data standards, ensuring the capability to share cadastral data from the Public Land Survey System of the U.S. with partners. |
| ***National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 3701)*** | Established the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation as a nonprofit corporation to encourage, accept and administer private gifts of property, and to undertake activities to further the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, and plant resources of the U.S. |
| ***Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act of 1998 (P.L. 105-263)*** | Authorizes the disposal through sale of 27,000 acres in Clark County, Nevada, the proceeds of which are distributed as follows: (a) 5 percent for use in the general education program of the State of Nevada; (b) 10 percent for use by Southern Nevada Water Authority for water treatment and transmission facility infrastructure in Clark County, Nevada; and (c) the remaining 85 percent to be used to acquire environmentally sensitive lands in Nevada; to make capital improvements to areas administered by NPS, FWS and BLM in Clark County, Nevada; to develop a multi-species habitat plan in Clark County, Nevada; to develop parks, trails, and natural areas in Clark County, Nevada; and to provide reimbursements for BLM |

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| | costs incurred in arranging sales and exchanges under this Act. |
| ***Lincoln County Lands Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-298)*** | Authorizes disposal of certain Federal lands through public sale in Lincoln County, Nevada, and provides for use of the receipts: 5 percent to the State of Nevada, 10 percent to the County, and 85 percent to an interest bearing account that is available for expenditure without further appropriation.. |
| ***Lincoln County Conservation, Recreation and Development Act (PL 108-424)*** | Addresses a wide-range of public lands issues in Lincoln County, Nevada, designates as wilderness 768,294 acres of BLM-managed lands and releases from wilderness study area (WSA) status 251,965 acres of public land. The bill also directs the BLM to dispose of up to 90,000 acres of public land and divides the proceeds 85 percent to a federal fund and 15 percent to state and county entities, establishes utility corridors, transfers public lands for state and county parks, creates a 260-mile OHV trail and resolves other public lands issues. |
| ***Ivanpah Valley Airport Public Land Transfer Act (P.L. 106-145)*** | Authorizes sale at fair market value of certain lands in Clark County, Nevada to Clark County, for use as an airport. Provides that the funds be deposited in the special account for the Southern Nevada Public Lands Act, to be used for acquisition of private in-holdings in the Mojave National Preserve and protection of petroglyph resources in Clark County, Nevada. |
| ***The 1994 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (P.L. 103-138)*** | Provides that funds shall be available to BLM for mining law administration program operations, to be reduced by amounts collected from annual mining claim fees. |
| ***The 1996 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (P.L. 104-134)*** | Directs the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management, to develop and implement a pilot recreation fee demonstration program to determine the feasibility of cost recovery for operation and maintenance of recreation areas and sites. |
| ***The 1999 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act ( P.L. 105-277)*** | Reauthorizes the collection of annual mining claim maintenance fees through 2001. Extends the recreation fee demonstration program through fiscal year 2001, with collected funds remaining available through fiscal year 2004. |
| ***The 2002 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act ( P.L. 107-63)*** | Reauthorizes the collection of annual mining claim maintenance fees through 2003. Extends the recreation fee demonstration program through fiscal year 2004, with collected funds remaining available through fiscal year 2007. |
| ***Notification and Federal Employee Anti-discrimination and Retaliation Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-174)*** | Requires Federal agencies be accountable for violations of antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws, and for other purposes. |

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|---|---|
| ***P.L. 107-213*** | Re-designate certain lands within the Craters of the Moon National Monument, and for other purposes. |
| ***P.L. 107-138*** | Require the valuation of non-tribal interest ownership of subsurface rights within the boundaries of the Acoma Indian Reservation, and for other purposes. |
| ***P.L. 107-345*** | Amends *U.S.C. Title 10* to make receipts collected from mineral leasing activities on certain naval oil shale reserves available to cover environmental restoration, waste management, and environmental compliance costs incurred by the U.S. with respect to the reserves. |
| ***P.L. 107-346*** | To convey certain property to the City of St. George, Utah, in order to provide for the protection and preservation of certain rare paleontological resources on that property, and for other purposes. |
| ***P.L. 107-361*** | Authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public lands within the Sand Mountain Wilderness Study Area in Idaho to resolve an occupancy encroachment dating back to 1971. |
| ***P.L. 107-350*** | Provides for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark County, Nevada, for use as a shooting range. |
| ***Big Sur Wilderness and Conservation Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-370)*** | Designates certain lands in the State of California as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, and for other purposes. |
| ***P.L. 107-371*** | Directs the Secretary of the Interior to disclaim any Federal interest in lands adjacent to Spirit Lake and Twin Lakes in Idaho resulting from possible omission of lands from an 1880 survey. |
| ***P.L. 107-374*** | Direct the Secretary of the Interior to grant to Deschutes and Crook Counties, Oregon, a right-of-way to West Butte Road. |
| ***Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-282) (16 USC 460qqq)*** | Establishes Wilderness Areas, including Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area, and to promote conservation, improve public land, and provide for high quality development in Clark County, Nevada, and for other purposes. |
| ***Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-282) as amended by P.L. 108-447*** | Enlarges the area in which the BLM can sell lands under the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act; approves a land exchange in the Red Rock Canyon Area; designates wilderness; designates certain BLM lands for a new airport for Las Vegas; and gives land to the State and City for certain purposes. |

***Burnt, Malheur, Owyhee, and Powder River Basin Water Optimization Feasibility Study Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-237)***

A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct feasibility studies on water optimization in the Burnt River, Malheur River, Owyhee River, and Powder River Basins.

***P.L. 107-324***

A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain land to the City of Haines, Oregon.

***Old Spanish Trail Recognition Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-325)***

A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Old Spanish Trail as a National Historic Trail.

***T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act (P.L. 108-7, Division F, Title IV)***

Amended FLPMA, Section 316, to require that any corrections to land conveyance documents which affect the boundaries of land administered by a federal agency other than the BLM be made only after consultation with, and the approval of, the head of such other agency.

***Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (P.L. 108-447) – including the authorizations:***

- Foundation for Nevada's Veteran's Land Transfer Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-447, Division E, Section 144) – authorizes the transfer of public lands from the BLM to the Veteran's Administration for the construction and operation of medical and related facilities.

- To Resolve a Minor Boundary Encroachment on Lands of the Union Pacific Railroad Company in Tipton, CA (P.L. 108-447, Division E, Section 139) – relinquishes the Federal government's reversionary interest in an abandoned railroad right-of-way in order to clear the cloud on the title of a small parcel of private land.

- Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act (P.L. 108-447, Division J, Title VIII) – Gives the BLM authority to collect entrance fees at certain recreation areas for ten years beginning in 2005.

- Watershed Restoration Projects (P.L. 106-291,Section 331, as amended by P.L. 108-447, Division E, Section 336) - permits the Colorado State Forest Service to perform watershed restoration and protection services on BLM lands in the State of Colorado when similar and complementary work is being performed on adjacent state lands.

- Snake River Water Rights Act of 2004(P.L. 108-447, Division J, Title X) – Directs BLM to transfer, at the selection of the Nez Perce Tribe, certain land managed by the BLM in northern Idaho to the Bureau of Indian Affairs to be held in trust for the Tribe. Existing rights and uses on the selected lands remain in effect until the date of expiration of the lease or permit. The fair market value of the parcels of land selected by the Tribe is not to exceed $7 million.

## SUMMARY OF REQUIREMENTS ($000)

| Comparison by Activity/ Subactivity | 2004 Actual FTE | 2004 Actual Amount | 2005 Enacted FTE | 2005 Enacted Amount | Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/ -) FTE | Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/ -) Amount | Program Changes (+/ -) FTE | Program Changes (+/ -) Amount | 2006 Budget Request FTE | 2006 Budget Request Amount | Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2005 FTE | Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2005 Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Management Of Lands and Resources** | **6,441** | **855,271** | **6,440** | **836,826** | **0** | **+20,177** | **-9** | **-6,826** | **6,431** | **850,177** | **-9** | **+13,351** |
| Land Resources | 1,538 | 183,135 | 1,541 | 188,014 | 0 | +4,466 | -9 | -5,517 | 1,532 | 186,963 | -9 | -1,051 |
| Soil, Water, Air Mgt | 255 | 36,038 | 253 | 34,738 | 0 | 712 | 0 | -2,107 | 253 | 33,343 | 0 | -1,395 |
| Range Mgt | 712 | 72,459 | 700 | 69,183 | 0 | 2,114 | -12 | -2,085 | 688 | 69,212 | -12 | +29 |
| Forestry Mgmt | 75 | 8,093 | 81 | 8,895 | 0 | 205 | 5 | 1,459 | 86 | 10,559 | +5 | +1,664 |
| Riparian Mgt | 199 | 22,015 | 199 | 21,228 | 0 | 590 | 0 | -114 | 199 | 21,704 | 0 | +476 |
| Cultural Resources Mgt | 137 | 15,479 | 136 | 14,925 | 0 | 390 | 0 | -75 | 136 | 15,240 | 0 | +315 |
| Wild Horse and Burro Mgt | 160 | 29,051 | 172 | 39,045 | 0 | 455 | -2 | -2,595 | 170 | 36,905 | -2 | -2,140 |
| Wildlife & Fisheries | 279 | 34,098 | 299 | 36,947 | 0 | 778 | 14 | 3,359 | 313 | 41,084 | +14 | +4,137 |
| Wildlife Mgt | 185 | 22,387 | 204 | 25,063 | 0 | 515 | 12 | 3,009 | 216 | 28,587 | +12 | +3,524 |
| Fisheries Mgt | 94 | 11,711 | 95 | 11,884 | 0 | 263 | 2 | 350 | 97 | 12,497 | +2 | +613 |
| Threatened & Endangered Species | 182 | 21,940 | 180 | 21,144 | 0 | 530 | 0 | -102 | 180 | 21,572 | 0 | +428 |
| Recreation | 597 | 62,276 | 588 | 60,589 | 0 | 1,631 | 10 | 2,384 | 598 | 64,604 | +10 | +4,015 |
| Wilderness Mgt | 166 | 17,673 | 158 | 16,431 | 0 | 469 | 0 | -94 | 158 | 16,806 | 0 | +375 |
| Recreation Resource Mgt | 430 | 44,603 | 430 | 44,158 | 0 | 1,162 | 10 | 2,478 | 440 | 47,798 | +10 | +3,640 |
| Recreation Operations Fees | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Energy & Minerals | 1,037 | 107,879 | 1,032 | 106,631 | 0 | 2,754 | -21 | -2,613 | 1,011 | 106,772 | -21 | +141 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oil and Gas Mgt | 860 | 88,195 | 855 | 87,360 | 0 | 2,257 | -20 | -2,326 | 835 | 87,291 | -20 | -69 |
| Coal Mgt | 81 | 9,390 | 81 | 9,311 | 0 | 220 | -1 | -235 | 80 | 9,296 | -1 | -15 |
| Other Mineral Resources Mgt | 96 | 10,294 | 96 | 9,960 | 0 | 277 | 0 | -52 | 96 | 10,185 | 0 | +225 |
| Alaska Minerals | 17 | 2,453 | 19 | 3,944 | 0 | 45 | -2 | -1,692 | 17 | 2,297 | -2 | -1,647 |
| Realty and Ownership | 739 | 93,246 | 736 | 92,624 | 0 | 2,231 | -12 | -13,709 | 724 | 81,146 | -12 | -11,478 |
| Alaska Conveyance | 279 | 41,920 | 279 | 41,975 | 0 | 760 | -12 | -9,136 | 267 | 33,599 | -12 | -8,376 |
| Cadastral Survey | 123 | 16,691 | 120 | 15,590 | 0 | 369 | 0 | -2,093 | 120 | 13,866 | 0 | -1,724 |
| Land and Realty Mgt | 337 | 34,635 | 337 | 35,059 | 0 | 1,102 | 0 | -2,480 | 337 | 33,681 | 0 | -1,378 |
| Communications Sites Mgt | 27 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Fee Collection | 27 | 2,000 | 27 | 2,000 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 27 | 2,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Offsetting Fees | | -2,000 | | -2,000 | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | -2,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Resource Protection & Maintenance | 530 | 81,290 | 541 | 81,501 | 0 | 1,381 | 5 | 734 | 546 | 83,616 | +5 | +2,115 |
| Resource Mgt Planning | 331 | 48,510 | 340 | 48,863 | 0 | 797 | 0 | -144 | 340 | 49,516 | 0 | +653 |
| Resource Protection & Law Enforcement | 77 | 16,283 | 81 | 16,788 | 0 | 242 | 5 | 944 | 86 | 17,974 | +5 | +1,186 |
| Hazardous Materials Mgt | 122 | 16,497 | 120 | 15,850 | 0 | 342 | 0 | -66 | 120 | 16,126 | 0 | +276 |
| Transportation & Facilities Maintenance | 428 | 81,533 | 430 | 77,813 | 0 | 1,204 | 0 | -2,726 | 430 | 76,291 | 0 | -1,522 |
| Operations | 55 | 6,311 | 55 | 6,057 | 0 | 269 | 0 | -55 | 55 | 6,271 | 0 | +214 |
| Annual Maintenance | 277 | 31,846 | 277 | 30,564 | 0 | 935 | 0 | -206 | 277 | 31,293 | 0 | +729 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Deferred Maintenance | 23 | 12,349 | 90 | 41,192 | 0 | 0 | 8 | -2,465 | 98 | 38,727 | +8 | -2,465 |
| Infrastructure Improvement | 73 | 31,027 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | -8 | 0 |
| Workforce & Organizational Support | 651 | 137,065 | 651 | 142,161 | 0 | 4,969 | 1 | 489 | 652 | 147,619 | +1 | +5,458 |
| Information Systems Operations | 75 | 18,531 | 78 | 19,651 | 0 | 202 | 1 | 1,602 | 79 | 21,455 | +1 | +1,804 |
| Administrative Support | 573 | 49,203 | 573 | 50,164 | 0 | 1,552 | 0 | -279 | 573 | 51,437 | 0 | +1,273 |
| Bureauwide Fixed Costs | 3 | 69,331 | 0 | 72,346 | 0 | 3,215 | 0 | -834 | 0 | 74,727 | 0 | +2,381 |
| Mining Law Administration | 307 | 15,423 | 307 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 307 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mining Law Administration | 307 | 32,696 | 307 | 32,696 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 307 | 32,696 | 0 | 0 |
| Offsetting Fees | | -17,273 | | -32,696 | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | -32,696 | 0 | 0 |
| Land and Resources Information Systems | 68 | 18,757 | 63 | 18,062 | 0 | 188 | 0 | -33 | 63 | 18,217 | 0 | +155 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grasshoppers & Mormon Crickets | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Challenge Cost Share | 40 | 16,176 | 25 | 7,396 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 12,600 | 30 | 19,996 | 5 | 12,600 |
| Challenge Cost Share | 40 | 8,769 | 25 | 7,396 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 6,600 | 30 | 13,996 | +5 | +6,600 |
| Cooperative Conservation Initiative | 0 | 7,407 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6,000 | 0 | 6,000 | 0 | +6,000 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Reimbursable ($ are non-add) | 230 | 32,046 | 230 | 31,046 | 0 | | 0 | | 230 | 31,046 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |

## JUSTIFICATION OF UNCONTROLLABLE COST CHANGES

**(dollars in thousands)**

| | 2005 Budget Change | 2005 Revised Change | 2006 Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005 Pay Raise | +2,597 | +2,561 | +4,748 |
| Amount of pay raise absorbed | [2,597] | [9,558] | 0 |
| 2006 Pay Raise | | | +9,470 |
| Amount of pay raise absorbed | | | 0 |
| These adjustments are for an additional amount needed in 2006 to fund the remaining 3-month portion of the estimated cost of the, on average, 3.5 percent pay increases effective in January 2005 ($4,748) and the additional costs of funding for an estimated 2.3 percent January 2006 pay increase for GS-series employees and the associated pay rate changes made in other pay series ($9,470). | | | |

| | 2005 Budget | 2005 Revised | 2006 Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| One Less Payday | | | -2,378 |
| This adjustment reflects the decreased costs resulting from the fact that there is one less payday in 2006 than in 2005. | | | |
| GSA Space | +27,521 | | +1,055 |
| The adjustment is for changes in the costs payable to General Services Administration (GSA) and others resulting from changes in rates for office and non-office space as estimated by GSA, as well as the rental costs of other currently occupied space. Costs of mandatory office relocations, i.e. relocations in cases where due to external events there is no alternative but to vacate the currently occupied space, are also included. | | | |
| Departmental Working Capital Fund | +7,857 | | +364 |
| The amount requested reflects expected changes in the charges for Department services and other services through the centralized billing portion of the working capital fund. These charges are displayed in the Budget Justification for Department Management. | | | |
| Worker's Compensation | +7,960 | | -93 |
| The adjustment is for actual charges through June 2004, in the costs of compensating injured employees and dependents of employees who suffered accidental deaths while on duty. Costs for 2006 will reimburse the Department of Labor, Federal Employees Compensation Fund, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 8147(b) as amended by Public Law 94-273. | | | |
| Unemployment Compensation | +3,642 | +5,214 | +1,889 |
| Amount of Unemployment Compensation absorbed | | [1,572] | [0] |
| The adjustment is for estimated changes in the costs of unemployment compensation claims to be paid to the Department of Labor, Federal Employees Compensation Account, in the Unemployment Trust Fund, pursuant to Public Law 96-499. The amount absorbed in 2005 is due to changes between the estimate of payments for unemployment compensation between the time the 2005 budget was formulated and enacted. The 2006 uncontrollable change includes a catch-up adjustment for the unbudgeted 2005 costs. | | | |
| Health Costs | +33,482 | | +5,122 |

| | |
|---|---|
| This adjustment is for changes in the Federal government's share of the cost of health insurance coverage for Federal employees. The increase is estimated at 11 percent, the average increase for the past few years. | |
| Total Uncontrollable Costs Absorbed | 0 |
| Total Uncontrollable Costs Funded | +20,177 |

# Activity: Land Resources

**Activity Summary ($000)**

| Subactivity | | 2004 Actual Amount | 2005 Enacted Amount | Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/ -) Amount | Program Changes (+/ -) Amount | 2006 Budget Request Amount | Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2005 Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Soil, Water, Air Mgt | $ | 36,038 | 34,738 | +712 | -2,107 | 33,343 | -1,395 |
| | FTE | 255 | 253 | 0 | 0 | 253 | 0 |
| Range Mgt | $ | 72,459 | 69,183 | +2,114 | -2,085 | 69,212 | +29 |
| | FTE | 712 | 700 | 0 | -12 | 688 | -12 |
| Forestry Mgmt | $ | 8,093 | 8,895 | +205 | +1,459 | 10,559 | +1,664 |
| | FTE | 75 | 81 | 0 | +5 | 86 | +5 |
| Riparian Mgt | $ | 22,015 | 21,228 | +590 | -114 | 21,704 | +476 |
| | FTE | 199 | 199 | 0 | 0 | 199 | 0 |
| Cultural Resources Mgt | $ | 15,479 | 14,925 | +390 | -75 | 15,240 | +315 |
| | FTE | 137 | 136 | 0 | 0 | 136 | 0 |
| Wild Horse and Burro Mgt | $ | 29,051 | 39,045 | +455 | -2,595 | 36,905 | -2,140 |
| | FTE | 160 | 172 | 0 | -2 | 170 | -2 |
| Total Dollars | $ | 183,135 | 188,014 | +4,466 | -5,517 | 186,963 | -1,051 |
| | FTE | 1,538 | 1,541 | 0 | -9 | 1,532 | -9 |

## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

In the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act*, Congress recognized the value of the remaining public lands by declaring that these lands would remain in public ownership. Congress also defined "multiple-use" management as "management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people." The Land Resource activity provides for integrated multiple-use management of public land renewable and cultural resources.

At the heart of this activity are three ecosystem types that are managed on a landscape basis: forest, fresh waters, shrub and grasslands. Conserving, restoring, and sustaining land and water health is the foundation for Land Resources management and is key to the Department's Strategic Plan.

Forests include all areas with the presence of trees from the timber that is found in the Pacific Northwest to the Rockies, the trackless areas of Alaska, live oak woodlands in California, and the pinion-juniper woodlands found in the Southwest. The streams, rivers, ponds, and wetlands comprise fresh water ecosystems. Grasslands and shrublands cover vast tracts of public lands

and are widely referred to as “rangelands,” including the sagebrush steppes of the Rockies and Pacific Northwest, the prairies, the deserts of the Southwest and intermountain West, and the Alaskan tundra and shrublands.

Within each ecosystem, the BLM permits certain uses such as livestock grazing, timber harvesting and recreation. Public lands provide forage and timber products for public consumption, habitat for wildlife, cultural values, and thriving wild horse and burro herds. Each of the programs within the Land Resources activity contributes to healthy, productive, and sustainable public land resource ecosystems, values, and services.

All permitted activities can be sustained over time only if the land is actively being managed to either restore or sustain a healthy condition, or both. The programs in this activity, in concert with other programs, work together to support the BLM’s strategic vision by providing renewable resources, commercial and recreational uses, public health and safety benefits through healthy forest ecosystems, healthy rangeland and watershed ecosystems, and properly functioning riparian habitat.

# Activity: Land Resources
# Subactivity: Soil, Water and Air Management

| | 2004 Actual Amount | 2005 Enacted Amount | Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/ -) Amount | Program Changes (+/ -) Amount | 2006 Budget Request Amount | Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2005 Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 36,038 | 34,738 | +712 | -2,107 | 33,343 | -1,395 |
| FTE | 255 | 253 | 0 | 0 | 253 | 0 |

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 2006 budget request for Soil, Water and Air Management is $33,343,000 and 253 FTE.

The major components of soil, water and air management are the Soil, Water and Air Program and the Abandoned Mine Lands Program. The Soil, Water and Air Program is responsible for the soil productivity and health, the quantity and quality of water, and the air quality associated with 261 million acres of public lands within 11 western States and Alaska. Products of work in this program are essential to accomplishment of the BLM strategic goals of improving and restoring health of watersheds and landscapes, sustaining biological communities, planning actions to use energy and non-energy minerals, forage resources, forest and woodland products, and improving information management. Upland, riparian and aquatic inventory and monitoring performed by the Soil, Water and Air Program provide the baseline data for rangeland resource evaluations, compliance with water and air quality standards, and a measure of success of a wide variety of watershed restoration projects.

***Strategic and Operations Plans*** - The Soil, Water and Air Management Program supports the Department's Strategic Plan through its contribution to achieving intermediate and end outcome goals in all four of the plan's mission areas. The program has most direct responsibility for outcome goals in the resource protection mission area by improving the health of watersheds and landscapes on public lands in a manner consistent with the laws and administrative procedures governing the allocation and use of water resources. A goal for the Soil, Water and Air Program is reduction of the number of streams and other water bodies on BLM-managed lands that do not meet State and Tribal water quality standards. To meet this could only require the acquisition of better water quality data or in other cases water quality improvement prescriptions, including best management practices, would have to be implemented. For the AML Program, the key outcome goal is to increase the number of acres of BLM-managed land on which abandoned mines have been cleaned up, and are no longer causing degradation of water quality with contaminated runoff.

Efficiency and effectiveness of all work within Soil, Water and Air is increased through collaborative partnerships with other State and Federal agencies and other stakeholders, another component of the Department's Strategic Plan. Mixed land ownership within watersheds, and increasing demand for the many uses and values of the public land make partnerships indispensable. Program success depends upon the involvement of stakeholders at the local, regional, and national levels. Working partnerships and interagency agreements promote better watershed management, which in turn protects water quality, State-identified beneficial uses of water, and the health of aquatic systems. Partnerships with the scientific community and other land managers bring additional fiscal and human resources together.

***Soil, Water and Air –*** Specific activities of the program include analysis and monitoring of soil, water, and air impacts necessary for land use authorizations, mitigation of the effects of resource management activities, water resource inventory and management of BLM participation in basin-wide adjudications of water uses. This program coordinates management actions to comply with state and tribal water quality requirements, such as the application of state-approved best management practices. The program also coordinates efforts to achieve Federal consistency with State non-point source pollution management strategies.

**Use of Cost and Performance Information in the Soil, Water and Air Program**

Cost and performance information is used to track program accomplishments and improve the BLM and soil, water and air work processes. In 2005 the Soil, Water and Air Program will complete a work plan identifying priority accomplishments necessary for completion of the BLM and Department outcome goals. Cost workload and performance analysis are necessary parts of that plan and will be used to:

- Emphasize the performance of priority work in priority watersheds. The forthcoming program work plan should provide guidance that better identifies program priorities and how to select projects that more effectively support these priorities. The Soil, Water and Air Program coded 54% of its expenditures to priority and key appropriate program elements, the highest proportion for the program so far. That proportion should be higher in FY2005.

- Improve the processes for meeting target accomplishments by analyzing cost and performance data to determine where efficiencies may be found, where training is needed, where specific methods can be improved. For example, unit costs for watershed assessment vary greatly from state to state. Oregon spent less than one-half cent per acre for watershed assessment in 2004, while Idaho spent 7 cents per acre, and California spent over $5 per acre. As a result of this data, the program has provided additional guidance to the field on how to meet required watershed assessment standards.

In 2006, the principal program priorities will be:

- Providing the soil, water and air technical support, data, and interpretation needed for new and renewed land use authorizations, stipulation compliance, and NEPA actions;
- Restoring water quality and aquatic resource conditions in priority watersheds in support of state-designated water uses through interdisciplinary development and implementation of best management practices;

- Reducing saline runoff to meet the international agreement to control salinity of the Colorado River;
- Monitoring soil, water, and air components of rangeland health standards evaluations, working with range conservationists and other members of interdisciplinary evaluation teams to assure that allotments and watersheds are meeting or making progress toward meeting rangeland health standards.
- Updating cooperative agreements older than two years for non-point source water quality management on the public lands between the BLM and State water quality management agencies.

In 2006, the BLM will:

- Inventory soil resource information on 780,000 acres;
- Assess land health standards on 8,450,000 acres;
- Operate 4,000 water resource monitoring stations;
- Perform water resource inventory at 950 stations; and,
- Process 7,500 actions in support of state water law.

***Abandoned Mine Lands -*** Abandoned mines, such as those that produced or attempted to produce gold, copper, lead and zinc, reflect some of the colorful historic development of the West, but they also threaten human health, safety and natural ecosystems. The abandoned mine lands are areas adjacent to, or affected by these mines.

The cumulative effects of water flowing at these sites can result in significantly impaired downstream water quality and water uses. Over time, naturally occurring chemical reactions result in surface and ground water pollution. Mine waste tailings frequently redirect natural runoff and stream flow, which further impacts water quality, the public lands and their potential use. The BLM, through its AML collaborative partnerships, continues to identify, prioritize, and take appropriate actions on mine sites that pose the greatest threats to water quality and the environment. The AML remediation projects involving water pollution are highly complex and can typically take 4-5 years to complete.

**Use of Cost and Performance Information in the Abandoned Mine Lands Program**

Cleaning up abandoned mine lands to improve public health and safety and the environment is a critical part of the AML program. The use of cost and performance information allowed the BLM to more effectively apply funds to on-the-ground remediation projects to increase productivity.

After an analysis of cost and performance data, the BLM increased the percentage of funds being spent on the highest priority on-the-ground work. This redirected funds from state to state for on-the-ground remediation, which resulted in increased accomplishments and enhanced quality control, and will reduce program administration costs. For example, funds were transferred from Arizona and Utah to Colorado to support Colorado's improved accounting methods and efforts to resolve complex water quality issues.

The BLM has identified over 300 priority AML sites impacting water quality that need immediate remediation. These abandoned mines are sources of pollution in watersheds where state water quality standards are not being met. Additionally, there are thousands of sites that require closure to protect the public from physical safety hazards, which are in close proximity to BLM maintained recreation facilities. In previous years, safety hazards associated with environmental site cleanup were fixed to ensure the safety of the public. In 2006, the BLM will direct Abandoned Mine Land funds to continue or start approximately 75 AML site for water quality cleanups and, where possible, include closure of sites that pose significant safety risks to the public visiting BLM lands.

Many of these projects will take multiple years to complete. Projects that will be worked on in 2006 include the following:

| State | Projects |
|---|---|
| Alaska | Harrison Creek, Hunter Creek, Wade Creek Dredge Removal, Hiyu Minesite, Quartz Creek Trail, AK Yukon 40 mile, 98-Mile Steese, and Maclaren Glacier. |
| Arizona | San Pedro Mill Sites. |
| California | Buena Vista, Gold Run Sluice Tunnel, Oat Hill Mercury Mine/Mill, Contact Mine, Pond Hyd Mine, Sonoma Mine, Rathburn-Petrey Complex, Davis Mine/Mill, and Kings Mercury Mine. |
| Colorado | Lark/Joe & John Mine, Ute-Ulay Mine/Mill, Eureka Channel Restoration, Eveline Acidic Mine Drainage, Lake Fork Mine District, Tiger Shaft-Colorado Gulch, Anglo Saxon Mine, Kansas City Mine, Gnome Mine, Wyoming Mine Dump, Little Nations Mine, Mill Sap Mill Tailings, North California Mountain, Risorgimento Mine, Palmetto Mine, and Querida Mill Tailings. |
| Idaho | Twin Peaks Mine, AML Investigation, Pine Creek Monitoring, Sonneman Mine Tailings, Ima Mine/Millsite Cleanup, Champagne Creek, Bayhorse Mine Area, South-Fork Coeur D'Alene Basin Projects, We Like Mine, Ima Mine Rehab Monitoring, Hazards Inventory, Lookout Mine, Mother Lode Mine, Leadville Mill Cleanup, and Clayton Silver. |
| Montana | Great Divide Sand Tailings, Indian Creek Dredge, Rochester/Nez Perce Project, Landusky Leach Pad Removal, Judith Mountains, Hard Cash, and Little Rocky Mountains. |
| Nevada | Leadville Tailings, Monarch Mill Site Cleanup, Easy Junior, Rip Van Winkle, Norse-Winfall, Castleton, Tybo Mine, and Veta Grande. |
| Oregon | Josephine Mill Site #2, Bretz Mine, and Almeda Mine Site. |
| Utah | Fry Canyon and Silver Maple Mining. |
| Wyoming | Copper Mountain AML Reclamation. |

## 2004 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

***Soil, Water and Air*** -- In 2004 the BLM met or exceeded most of its goals for primary outputs. The accomplishments in this program are described below.

- BLM riparian restoration treatments were in part responsible for the retention of about 85,000 tons per year of dissolved salts in six Colorado River Basin States, assisting with the objective of preventing further degradation of water quality in the Colorado River.
- Approximately 12,000,000 acres of watershed-based land health assessments were completed to support Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines, environmental reviews of expiring livestock permits, watershed restoration activities, wildland fire rehabilitation, and mine land reclamation. This accomplished acreage is approximately 600,000 acres more than was initially planned due to accelerated schedules for renewal of grazing permits in some states.
- Soil inventory data was collected on approximately 400,000 acres to identify range sites for land health evaluations and support future management actions on those lands. This is 99% of the acres planned for soil survey.
- Monitoring data was collected at approximately 6,300 surface water stations throughout the west for flow and water quality in support of work on Rangeland Health Standards and use authorization compliance. This was approximately 98% of the planned water resource monitoring.
- About 1,900 acres of the 2,500 planned acres of shrub, grassland, and vegetation were treated. This output is dependant upon weather, wildfire occurrence, and equipment availability making it hard to target the correct number of acres that will be treated.
- About 300 acres of shrub, grass, and vegetation and stream/riparian projects were completed.
- The BLM worked with state water quality agencies and others to support the development and implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMD) measures, which has been important in helping to achieve state and tribal water quality requirements. Over 1,000 miles of streams on BLM-managed lands were removed from impaired water quality lists through cooperative efforts of BLM, state agencies, and other land managers.
- Watershed improvements continued in the Rio Puerco Watershed in northwestern New Mexico. These improvements included survey, design and reconstruction of numerous earthen dams, watershed enhancements, and restoration of Thompson Spring, an important water source on the vast, arid Pueblo of Jemez.

***Abandoned Mine Lands*** - In 2004, the AML program end outcome performance measure was adjusted to measure number of acres reclaimed from the effect of past mining. For this initial year of this measure, 50 acres were projected with 336 acres actually reclaimed during FY2004. The difference was due to a combination of establishing an unrealistic baseline projection and the variability in size of acreages reclaimed at abandoned mine land sites.

| | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| *BEFORE: Rock Dump Stabilization, Gilbert Mine Dump, 1997. Over-steepened streamside waste rock piles like these at the Gilbert Mine in 1997, often generated from miles of mine tunnels, can provide an overwhelming and long-term load of coarse sediment to the stream system.* | *AFTER: Stream Realignment, Gilbert Mine Dump, 2003. In some cases, it is more effective to create a new, stable channel away from the sediment source.* |

***Applications of Science*** - The Applications of Science initiative was designed to apply currently available scientific information to operational land and resource management problems either directly or by extending existing scientific information, techniques, or technologies to new applications. In FY2004, the program investigated the effects of many new technologies in the most demanding and relevant laboratory: practical, on-the-ground applications and trials. Examples include:

- Tests of best management practices on the sensitive Mancos Shale lands in the Gunnison Gorge, with implications for large areas in southwestern Colorado and southeastern Utah; this work also accomplished 45,000 acres of watershed assessment and 20,000 acres of soil inventory.
- Development of a drought assessment model in which climate data can be used to project plant growth, future wildfire conditions, soil moisture and other factors important to resource management;
- Field studies on control of invasive weed species;
- Analyses of impacts of recreational activities such as mountain bike riding.
- Field studies on methods for restoring water flows in eastern Oregon were conducted on paired watershed accomplished 800 acres of shrub, grassland and pinyon-juniper treatment monitoring.

## 2005 PLANNED PROGRAM PERFORMANCE

***Soil, Water and Air*** - The BLM will meet the 2005 revised targets published in the 2006 Budget Justifications. In 2005, the BLM will focus its resource protection efforts in priority watersheds using interdisciplinary projects and partners. Projects will include:

- Assessing the functionality of watersheds;

- Incorporating watershed goals in land use planning;
- Meeting State and tribal water quality requirements under the Clean Water Act;
- Identifying priority watersheds to focus budgetary and personnel resources;
- Restoring watersheds on a cooperative integrated basis and supporting TMDL processes;
- Focusing on resources within high-priority watersheds. Benefits include:
  - Providing a consistent framework for multi-program funding;
  - Integrating multi-program objectives such as wildlife, rangeland health, wild horse and burro management, water quality management and protection, riparian management, fire/fuel management, and reclamation/restoration in support of energy development activities;
  - Achieving long-term Strategic Plan goals to meet water quality standards and improve watershed resource conditions;
  - Progressing toward meeting land health standards by conducting watershed-based land health assessments; and,
- Creating and sustaining partnerships with state and local governments. Partnership creation and development is vital when dealing with watersheds that extend across vast geographical areas and multiple jurisdictions. The BLM has cooperative agreements with most State water quality agencies, which address management of non-point sources and data sharing. The BLM will update and extend these agreements to all States in which the BLM operates. The BLM continues to implement on-the-ground projects, evaluate progress in cooperation with Bureau of Reclamation and Natural Resources Conservation Service, and report salt-retaining measures in order to further the Plan of Implementation of the Federal Salinity Control program in the Colorado River Basin.

For the following targets, the BLM has revised the targets submitted as part of the 2005 Budget Justifications, as follows:

- Inventory shrub/grassland acres declined between 2003 and 2004. The reason for this decrease was due to the completion of a contract issued by BLM and acres reported
- Other differences in performance numbers between the 2005 planned and revised were due to a shift of funds by managers to meet priority needs.

***Abandoned Mine Lands*** - In the 2005 Budget Justifications, the BLM had planned clean-up of 52 sites. Many of those cleanups are continuing and are included in the 74 projects now planned for FY2005. They are listed below.

| State | Projects |
|---|---|
| Alaska | Gold Bench; Hunter Creek; Iron Side Bar; Harrison Creek; Ptarmigan Gulch; Squaw Creek; Interagency Birch; Hope Creek; Quartz Creek Trail; Maclaren Glacier; and, 98 Mile Steese; Energy Management Partners |
| Arizona | Cibola Mill, San Pedro Mill Sites |
| California | Rinconada Mine, Boston Tunnel, Davis Mill Tailings Remediation |
| Colorado | Querida Mill Tailings; Lake Fork Mine; Lark, Joe and John Mine; Eureka Channel; Eveline Mine; Mill Sap Gulch Tailings; Risorgimento Mine Dump Project; Gnome Mine Reclamation Project; North Polar Star Mine Project; North California Mountain; Little Nations Mine; Kansas City Mine; Anglo Saxon Mine |

| State | Projects |
|---|---|
| Idaho | Clayton Silver Mine; Champagne Creek; Ima Mine/Mill Site; Twin Peak Mine; Leadville Mill Tailings; We Like Mine; Lookout Mountain Mine; Mother Load Mine; S. Fork CDA Basin; U of I CDA AML Support; S. Fork Basin Rock Dumps; Idora Mine; S. Fork S F Fraction; S. Fork Silverton Tailings |
| Montana | Great Divide Sand Tailings; Lower Indian Creek; Rochester/Nez Perce; Little Rocky Mountains; Lower Indian Creek Channel Restoration; Belle Eldridge Monitoring; Bentonite Mine Reclamation; AML Reclamation O& M |
| Nevada | Rip Van Winkle; Johnston Millsite; Tybo Mine; Easy Junior; Leadville Tailings; Castleton |
| Oregon | Almeda Mine Site; Josephine Mill Site #2; Yellowhead Mine; Lookout; Glass Buttes Repository; Bretz Mine; Inman Mine |
| Utah | White River Oil Shale; La Sal Creek; Fry Canyon; Silver Maple Mine; Water Quality Sampling |
| Wyoming | Site A-24-3 Reclamation; Site B-12 & 28 Reclamation; Site C-27 &34 Reclamation |

***Applications of Science*** - The BLM will fund five new projects in 2005, and will continue to fund the 15 multiple-year Applications of Science projects initiated in 2004 or earlier. All of the five new projects to be started in 2005 are single-year. All other projects are multi-year projects in their final year. They will address numerous issues, including:

- Evaluating the physical impacts of mountain biking to determine best management practices in Arizona;
- Conducting experimental laser scanning on prehistoric rock art in Agua Fria National Monument in Arizona;
- Managing for rare plants and off highway vehicle use in the Clear Creek Management Area in California;
- Analyzing fire risk and cultural resources to the Canyon of the Ancient National Monument in Colorado;
- Assessing real time drought on rangelands in Idaho; and,
- Sponsoring the Craters of the Moon National Monument Science Symposium in Idaho.
- Development of Mancos Shale best management practices in the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area, Colorado
- Restoration of water flows in western juniper systems in Oregon;
- Watershed analysis and data distribution toolkit in Wyoming;
- Experimental management of medusahead and restoration of degraded grasslands in California.

## JUSTIFICATION OF 2006 PROGRAM CHANGES

**2006 Program Changes**

| | 2006 Budget Request | Program Changes (+/-) |
|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 33,343 | -2,107 |
| FTE | 253 | 0 |

The 2006 budget request for the Soil, Water and Air Management Program is $33,343,000 and 253 FTE, a program decrease of -$2,107,000 from the 2005 enacted level.

***San Pedro Partnership (-$986,000)*** - Congress has appropriated $1.0 million to BLM annually from 2004 through 2005 to fund a certain activities of the partnership. These funds were used to contribute to a water needs study, an Upper Basin water conservation plan, and several USGS hydrologic investigations. Funds have also been used for continuing implementation of a conservation plan and on-going groundwater and surface water monitoring. The BLM believes that the Federal goals and commitments to the Partnership have been met. The reduction will return funding to levels originally planned, and allow the BLM to focus future efforts in the areas with higher proportions of public lands.

***Applications of Science Program (-$986,000)*** - To fund higher priorities within BLM, the budget proposes to discontinue the Applications of Science Program. Many of the results and products of the roughly 50 projects conducted over the past five years will continue to benefit and inform BLM resource management practices in the future.

***Narrowband Radio Savings and Other Program Efficiencies (-$135,000)*** – In 2006, the BLM will realize significant cost savings and efficiencies within the narrowband radio program because it will have completed the required transition from wideband to narrowband technology. Also in 2006, the BLM will continue improvements in the areas of travel and transportation management, Information Technology, vehicle fleet management, and other administrative support, producing further cost savings.

**SOIL, AIR AND WATER MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

| **DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Protection** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **End Outcome Goal: Improve the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources that are DOI managed or influenced in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allotment and use of water.** | | | | | | | |
| **End Outcome Measures:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Mined Land Quality - Number of land acres reclaimed or mitigated from the effects of degradation from past mining. SP (reporting cumulative acres beginning with a zero baseline) | Establish Baseline | 336 | 50 | 200 | 200 | 0 | 500 |
| Water Quality- Percent surface acres of BLM-managed lakes, ponds meeting surface water standards. SP | Establishe d in 2004 | 84% 285,288 / 339,942 | 88% | 84.1 % 285,968 / 339,942 (680 acres) | 84.3 % 286,568 / 339,942 (600 acres) | 0.2% | 85% (650 acres in 2009) |
| Water Quality - Percent of surface waters (stream miles) managed by DOI that meet State (EPA approved) water quality standards. SP | Establish Baseline | Establish Initial Target | 88% | 89.4% (218 miles) | 89.6% (218 additional miles) | 0.2% | 0.2 % (218 additional miles) |
| Air Quality - Percent of reporting Class I DOI lands that meet ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). SP | Establish Baseline | 50% 2/4 | 50% 2/4 | 50% 2/4 | 50% 2/4 | 0 | 100% 4/4 |
| Air Quality - Percent of reporting Class I DOI lands that meet visibility objectives. SP | Establish Baseline | 0% 0/4 | 0% 0/4 | 0% 0/4 | 0% 0/4 | 0 | 25% 1/4 |
| **Intermediate Outcome Goal 1: Restore and maintain proper function to watersheds and landscapes.** | | | | | | | |
| **Intermediate Outcome Measures:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Contaminated Site Remediation - Percent of known contaminated sites remediated on DOI managed land. SP | Not Measured | 1.5% 5 / 358 | 2.3% 8 / 358 | 2.3% 8 / 358 | 3.4% 12 / 358 | 0% | 5.6% 20 / 358 |

| **Primary Outputs funded by this Subactivity:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Inventory water resources (number). | 2,600 | 7,475 | 1,090 | 1,090 | 950 | -140 | 1,200 |
| **Primary Outputs funded by this Subactivity:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Inventory soil resources (acres). | 820,000 | 399,764 | 1,100,000 | 700,000 | 780,000 | 80,000 | 1,300,000 |
| Complete watershed assessments (acres). | 7,345,000 | 12,657,276 | 8,300,000 | 8,300,000 | 8,450,000 | 150,000 | 9,000,000 |
| Inventory Shrub/Grasslands/PJ (acres). | 414,000 | 5,000 | 5,500 | 6,000 | 4,500 | -1,500 | 10,000 |
| Process water rights actions (number). | 10,960 | 9,840 | 9,500 | 8,000 | 7,500 | -500 | 10,000 |
| Apply Shrub/Grassland Vegetation Treatments (acres). | 2,700 | 1,589 | 10,000 | 1,500 | 950 | -550 | 2,000 |
| Construct Shrub, Grassland, Woodland, Forest Projects (number). | 150 | 222 | 100 | 100 | 110 | 10 | 100 |
| Maintain Shrub, Grassland, Woodland, Forest Projects (number). | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 15 | -5 | 20 |
| Implement abandoned mine land projects to restore water quality (number). | 72 | 60 | 60 | 70 | 70 | 0 | 50 |
| Monitor air resources/climatic conditions (number). | 250 | 284 | 190 | 190 | 180 | -10 | 250 |
| Monitor water resources (number). | 4,790 | 6,376 | 4,550 | 4,550 | 4,000 | -550 | 5,000 |

# Activity: Land Resources
# Subactivity: Rangeland Management

**SUBACTIVITY SUMMARY ($000)**

| | 2004 Actual Amount | 2005 Enacted Amount | Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/ -) Amount | Program Changes (+/ -) Amount | 2006 Budget Request Amount | Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2005 Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 72,459 | 69,183 | +2,114 | -2,085 | 69,212 | +29 |
| FTE | 712 | 700 | 0 | -12 | 688 | -12 |

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 2006 budget for the Rangeland Management program is $69,212,000 and 688 FTE.

The BLM manages 214 million acres of rangeland within the 11 western States, including Alaska. The term "rangeland" is used to describe a type of land (similar to forestland or cropland) on which the indigenous vegetation is predominately grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs and is managed as a natural ecosystem. Rangelands include natural grasslands, short-grass prairies, savannahs, shrublands, many deserts, tundras, alpine communities, marshes, and meadows.

***Departmental Strategic Plan*** - This subactivity supports the Resource Use and Resource Protection mission goals from the Department's Strategic Plan by collecting, interpreting, and providing information associated with management of rangeland resources. Two key intermediate outcome measures of performance include: 1) the percent of acres with range improvements resulting in sustainable grazing, and 2) the percent of permitted acres maintained at appropriate land conditions and water and air standards. Primary output measures of performance include: 1) issue grazing permits and use authorizations, 2) monitor grazing allotments, 3) evaluate rangeland health, 4) inventory and monitor vegetation, 5) conduct watershed assessments, 6) construct and maintain vegetation treatments, and 7) apply and evaluate weed treatments (see the "Rangeland Management Performance Summary" at the end of this subactivity discussion). These intermediate outcome and primary output measures describe range management activities important for implementing the Strategic Plan, such as providing for livestock forage and improving rangeland health, including sagebrush ecosystems important for sage grouse.

***Rangeland Management -*** Activities within this program include range inventory and monitoring, rangeland health assessments and evaluations, livestock grazing-related administrative actions such as grazing permit renewals, processing annual use authorizations

and transferring of grazing preference, allotment planning and administration, addressing legal challenges, rangeland improvement planning and implementation, integrated invasive/noxious weed management, and activity plan development and implementation. The Range Management program also supports planning and implementation efforts of the National Fire Plan. Grazing permit renewals will be a focus of the program in 2006. The BLM plans to complete the same number of permit renewals in 2006 as were completed during 2005.

Systematic monitoring activities, assessments, and evaluations are completed at the allotment, watershed, and, in some instances, the landscape scale to determine if the standards and fundamentals for rangeland health are being achieved.

*A range specialist in Utah collects trend data to determine the change in the status of resources at a site detected by monitoring - usually expressed as improving, declining, or stable. Monitoring is the orderly collection, analysis, and interpretation of resource data to evaluate progress toward meeting management objectives.*

Assessing, evaluating and monitoring are critical to assure proper management actions are authorized as expiring livestock grazing permit/leases are renewed and to quantify and report progress made in meeting the annual performance goal of achieving an upward trend in upland conditions on BLM administered lands.

Activities such as integrated weed management, rangeland assessments and evaluations, and activity plan development are completed jointly with other resource programs, thereby enhancing BLM's ability to meet fish and wildlife habitat objectives, wild horse and burro needs, and community watershed requirements while also providing livestock forage. Through rangeland ecosystem restoration and management programs, the ecological condition of upland vegetation communities and riparian areas can be maintained or improved while accommodating a variety of uses and resource values, including energy and mineral development, recreation use, and wildlife habitat management.

The BLM has proposed changes to the grazing regulations (43 CFR Part 4100) to improve working relationships with permittees and lessees, protect the health of the rangelands, and increase administrative effectiveness and efficiency, including resolution of legal issues. The proposal recognizes the many benefits of public lands ranching, including its economic and social contributions to rural communities and its preservation of open space in the Western rangelands. In 2003, BLM began the process of revising the regulations by issuing an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement. Four public meetings were held in 2003 and BLM received over 8,300 comments on the Advance Notice. On December 8, 2003, the BLM published the Proposed Rule for grazing administration in the Federal Register. On January 2, 2004, the BLM released the draft

environmental impact statement on the proposed regulations. The BLM anticipates publishing a final rule early in calendar year 2005.

***Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable (SRR)***: The United States has opted to approach identification of resource-specific criteria and indicators for quantification of social, economic, and ecological factors through a series of stakeholder roundtables focusing individually on forests, rangelands, minerals and energy, and water resources.

The SRR, comprised of representatives from conservation organizations, the livestock industry, local, state, BLM and other federal agencies, and universities, has completed the identification of measures of rangeland sustainability at a national scale. The SRR is working to develop a framework for national assessments of rangelands and rangeland use patterns and is preparing a report using a subset of the sustainability indicators. It operates as an inclusive, open partnership with all interested representatives having an equal voice in the criterion and indicator development. Since its beginning, more than 50 agencies, universities, NGO's, and 130 individuals have participated in the SRR process (available at: http://sustainablerangelands.cnr.colostate.edu/participation.html).

Rangelands, like forests, are vital to the continued well-being of local communities, counties, regions, and the United States as a whole. They provide commodity, amenity, and spiritual values. Among these products and values are forage for grazing animals, both domestic and wild, wildlife habitat, water storage and filtering, environments for critical species (rangeland-dependent and Federally threatened or endangered), sequestration of carbon to mitigate global warming, multiple recreational opportunities, a way of life for people living on the land and in rangeland-dependent communities, and other economic and social benefits.

*Current efforts to restore native rangelands in the Great Basin include: collecting, planting, evaluating, and developing seed stock hopefuls like Anatone bluebunch wheatgrass (as seen in the photo above) - a native grass that could be used in restoring low-elevation rangelands. The Great Basin is a land of fierce extremes, sun-baked in July to bitterly cold in January. Yet the Great Basin is in serious ecological decline because of exotic annual grasses and noxious weeds.*

***Invasive and Noxious Weed Program*** – In 2006, BLM will commit an additional $300,000 for invasive and noxious weed control and management of weed-infested sites in sagebrush communities to enhance sage grouse habitat. The focus will be in states with native sagebrush communities (CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY).

Invasive and noxious weeds are a threat to public land health and other programs outside of range management. BLM recognizes the need to supplement or fund control and management, inventory, monitoring and restoration of weed infested lands. For example, the Threatened and Endangered species program funds weed treatments to improve habitat for threatened and endangered plant species. Noxious or invasive weed management is being pursued across

three areas of emphasis using BLM's Partners Against Weeds Action Plan: education, inventory, and control. These areas of emphasis are also identified in the National Invasive Species Management Plan. Partnerships serve as a clearinghouse for documenting noxious weed locations and treatment efforts. States will continue to develop and implement Weed Management Areas and coordinated management plans on high priority areas, including lands found within the National Landscape Conservation System. Specific emphasis will be on tamarisk control in the southwest where it out- competes native riparian habitat and displaces critical wildlife habitat and areas in the Northern Great Plains where leafy spurge infests over 250,000 acres. In addition, an early detection and rapid response system will be implemented on all BLM lands.

## 2004 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2004, the BLM exceeded a majority of its goals for primary outputs, but did not meet a few output goals. The primary workload in the Rangeland Management Program was processing expired or expiring grazing permit/leases. In 2004, a total of 2,512 Grazing Permits/Leases were issued: 1,504 were issued in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and 1,008 were renewed pursuant to language in the 2004 Appropriation Act.

BLM is in its sixth full year of reducing the grazing permit renewal backlog created by the "spike" of expiring permits in 1999 and 2000. Processing a permit consists primarily of analyzing environmental impacts using appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation and appropriate Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation.

At the end of Fiscal Year 2004, 85 percent of the grazing permits that have expired since Fiscal Year 1999 were fully processed (11,328 of 13,377). The following table shows the actual number of permits that have been completed in conformance with NEPA:

| Fiscal Year | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number of Permits Fully Processed | 3864 | 1493 | 2270 | 1253 | 1957 | 1504 |

BLM incorporates information from monitoring and land health evaluations to develop reasonable alternatives to be considered in the grazing permit NEPA documents. This information is also used to coordinate and consult with permittees and other interested parties and to make informed decisions when issuing the permits.

The BLM relies on having adequate information to complete environmental analysis and make sound defensible decisions before issuing a grazing permit. These decisions are based on information gathered from completing ecological site inventories, inventorying shrub/grassland/pinyon-juniper vegetation, monitoring grazing allotments, inspecting grazing allotments for compliance, inventorying, evaluating and applying weed treatments, and implementing and constructing range improvement projects. The BLM exceeded all of its goals for those primary outputs. As a result of spending time on these key primary outputs for term permit renewal, as well as time required for litigation, the goals for the following primary outputs

were not met: applying shrub/grassland vegetation treatment, evaluating rangeland health, and watershed assessments.

Performance Measure 2.3.02 (Rangeland Condition – Percent of permitted acres maintained at appropriate land conditions and water and air standards) was clarified. The denominator is the actual acres of rangeland assessed rather than what has been described as the total rangeland acreage.

**Use of Cost and Performance Information in the Rangeland Management Program**

On February 9, 2004, rangeland management specialists from 10 western states and the Washington Office were asked to complete a comprehensive review of the use of authorization codes for the Rangeland Management program (1020). These authorization codes include the transfer of Grazing Preference (ED), Issuance of Permits and Leases (EE) and the Issuance of Use Authorizations (EF). Four proposals were identified that, if implemented, would lead to improved reporting, better future decisions and improved program efficiency. The following is a list of some but not all of the types of Cost Management Data used in the analysis:

-Statistical Cost Analysis Reports – Cost vs. Workload & Minimum Efficient Workloads & Cost
-Unit Cost Summaries by State and Field Office 2001-2003.
-Indirect Analysis-Organizational View (State & Office Level) & PE View (State Level)
-Statistical Cost Analysis Reports-Time Series Comparison – Cost & Unit Data
-State Level 3-Year Average Unit Cost for a grazing application, permit renewal, and grazing authorization.
-Management Reports – by task (State& Field Offices)

The Grazing Team examined the state controllable cost of producing each type of use authorization and identified the quantity of outputs produced for each type of use authorization and the respective state controllable unit cost at both State and Field Office levels.

Findings: In many cases, range personnel find themselves working on a number of different tasks in small bites of time. For example, 15 minutes on a use authorization, 30 minutes on the phone with a permittee who talks about different issues, or spending several hours assisting colleagues with other action items involving rangelands.

Recommendations made for implementation: work activities being clearly defined, work and cost processes outlined and standardized, and issuance of guidance to employees.

***Weed Partnerships***: Partners have been key to ensuring success in the weed management program.

*Angora goats are used successfully to control leafy spurge on a site-by-site basis. Leafy spurge now extends from southern Canada through the northern United States, and is approaching areas as far south as Texas.*

For example, since 1997, BLM and other Federal agencies have participated in a partnership with the White River Soil Conservation District, local businesses, and individual land owners to address noxious weed management within Rio Blanco County in Colorado. Here, as well as in many other communities in the west, noxious or invasive weed management is being pursued across three areas of emphasis: education, inventory, and control.

Partnerships, like this one, serve as a clearinghouse for documenting noxious weed locations and treatment efforts. They disseminate information, loan spray equipment, and provide funding to help defray expenses for private land owners. One positive example is the Curtis Creek Project, where leafy spurge flea beetles, angora goats, and a few selective chemicals are being utilized as different but complimentary methods to eradicate leafy spurge. Leafy spurge displaces native vegetation in rangelands and wildlife habitats through shading and by usurping available water and nutrients and through plant toxins that prevent the growth of other plants underneath it. Leafy spurge is an aggressive invader and, once present, can completely overtake large areas of open rangeland. Leafy spurge and other non-native invasive plants tolerate moist to dry soil conditions but are most aggressive under dry conditions where competition from native plants is reduced. The following table shows the actual number of noxious and invasive acres treated by the BLM in 2003 and 2004

| **Invasive and Noxious Weed Treated Acreage** | | |
|---|---|---|
| State | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual |
| Arizona | 405 | 1,446 |
| California | 19,132 | 8,265 |
| Colorado | 12,170 | 16,247 |
| Eastern States | 57 | 88 |
| Idaho | 31,394 | 70,874 |
| Montana | 106,623 | 109,559 |
| New Mexico | 3,310 | 5,419 |
| Nevada | 10,908 | 14,469 |
| Oregon | 24,828 | 17,527 |
| Utah | 74,899 | 58,172 |
| Wyoming | 13,997 | 15,893 |

| Invasive and Noxious Weed Treated Acreage | | |
|---|---|---|
| State | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual |
| **TOTAL** | **297,723** | **317,959** |

## 2005 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ESTIMATES

In 2005, the BLM plans to meet or exceed most of the targets set in the 2005 Budget Justifications. The Rangeland Management program will again place priority upon permit/lease renewal with special emphasis directed to reducing the backlog of expired permits/leases.

The BLM endeavors to complete land health standard evaluations on at least ten percent of the livestock grazing lands under its jurisdiction each year, until the assessments are complete. By the end of 2009, all carryover grazing permits are to be fully processed using monitoring and assessment information and land health standards evaluations as needed to complete environmental impact analysis.

Consistent with the Department's Strategic Plan, the BLM will continue to focus conservation and restoration efforts such as monitoring, assessment, planning and projects on priority watersheds to achieve integrated resource objectives. Interdisciplinary monitoring and resource assessments are conducted at the watershed or grazing allotment scale to determine attainment or progress toward meeting rangeland standards in accordance with the ten-year schedules and where compatible, in conjunction with, or in anticipation of grazing permit/lease renewals.

Continuing activities in 2005 include:

- Transferring grazing permits and leases.
- Conducting resource inventory and monitoring.
- Supporting land use planning efforts.
- Evaluating for land health standards.
- Processing annual use authorizations.
- Conducting allotment inspections and compliance checks.
- Addressing litigation requirements.
- Inventorying and treating invasive species and noxious weeds.
- Planning and implementing resource improvement projects.
- Providing support to National Fire Plan projects.
- Assisting in the stabilization and rehabilitation of rangelands post fire.
- Support sagebrush ecosystem and sage grouse habitat projects.

For the following targets, the BLM has revised the targets submitted as part of the 2005 Budget Justifications, as follows:

- Issue 2,562 grazing permits/leases, or 1,162 more than planned in the 2005 Budget Justifications. The reason for this increase is to remain on schedule to complete full

processing of permits by 2009. The revised targets are higher than 2004 actuals to remain on schedule to complete full processing of permits by 2009.

- Issue 23,500 grazing use authorizations, which is 450 less than planned in the 2005 Budget Justifications. The reason for this decrease is to reflect the average actuals of 2003 and 2004. The revised targets are higher than 2004 actuals based on additional forage in many areas that are experiencing drought relief.
- Conduct monitoring on 3,180 allotments which is 25 higher than planned in the 2005 Budget Justifications. The reason for this increase is that monitoring and watershed assessment work gives BLM the basis for the NEPA documentation.
- Inspect 4,500 grazing allotments for compliance, or 200 less than planned in the 2005 Budget Justifications. The reason for this decrease is to focus more time on permit renewals. The revised targets are lower than 2004 actuals in order to focus more time on permit renewals.
- Monitor 35,000 acres of shrub/grassland vegetation treatments, or 5,000 less than planned in the 2005 Budget Justifications. The reason for this decrease is to focus more time on permit renewals. The revised targets are higher than 2004 actuals to obtain a more complete monitoring assessment of vegetation treatments.
- Conduct 1,000 grazing preference transfers, or ten more than planned in the 2005 Budget Justifications. The reason for this increase is due to a slight increase in the recent history of transfers. The revised targets are lower than 2004 actuals as transfers fluctuate depending on market and operator situations.
- Evaluate weed treatments on 350,000 acres, which is 15,000 acres less than planned in the 2005 Budget Justifications. The reason for this decrease is maintain a more accurate balance off efforts involving inventory, treatment and the associated evaluations.

## JUSTIFICATION OF 2006 PROGRAM CHANGES

**2006 Program Changes**

| | 2006 Budget Request | Program Changes (+/-) |
|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 69,212 | -2,085 |
| FTE | 688 | -12 |

The FY 2006 budget request for Rangeland Management is $69,212,000 and 688 FTE, a program change of -$2,085,000 and -12 FTE from the 2005 enacted level.

***Noxious Weeds (+$300,000*)** – The increase will allow BLM to inventory 40,000 acres, treat 3,300 acres, and monitor 16,000 acres of weed infested sites in sagebrush communities to enhance sage grouse habitat. The focus will be in states with native sagebrush communities (CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, WY).

***Montana State University (-$493,000)*** – The Center for Invasive Plant Management has met with much success and is now capable of independent operation. The funding BLM provided between 2000 and 2005 was money used for the development of the center and weed control activities; here, the center will be responsible for securing outside funding from other agencies and private partnerships to sustain itself. BLM gained valuable information on weed management issues in Montana. BLM fully supports the Center's mission, and will continue to provide ongoing technical support, on an as-needed basis, without specific dedicated funding.

***Idaho State Department of Agriculture, (-$493,000)*** - The Idaho Department of Agriculture's program promoting cooperative weed management activities is now well established and continues to expand under State leadership. BLM's continuing commitment to supporting this program is being implemented through the local BLM field offices, which provide technical support, equipment, chemicals, and limited indirect funding, as well as assistance in building good working relationships and partnerships at the local level.

***Health Monitoring (-$986,000)*** – In 2003, 2004, and 2005 Congress provided funding for rangeland monitoring on grazing allotments. The additional funding allowed the BLM to complete monitoring on additional allotments to gather and analyze data in high priority areas such as the sagebrush ecosystem with significant resource conflicts. The BLM will continue to gather and analyze data to monitor and protect rangeland health; however, because of the proposed funding redirection, BLM will not complete: 1) monitoring on 160 allotments, 2) 40 rangeland health evaluations, and 3) issuance of 75 grazing permits/leases.

***Program Efficiencies (-$413,000)*** - In 2006, the BLM will realize significant cost savings and efficiencies within the narrowband radio program, because it will have completed the required transition from wideband to narrowband technology. Also in 2006, the BLM will continue improvements in the areas of travel and transportation management, Information Technology, vehicle fleet management, and other administrative support, producing further cost savings.

**RANGELAND MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

| **DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Use** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **End Outcome Goal: Manage or influence resource use to enhance public benefit, promote responsible use, and ensure optimal value -- forage.** | | | | | | | |
| **End Outcome Measures:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Rangeland Improvements - Percent of acres with DOI range improvements resulting in sustainable grazing **(SP)** | Not Measured | 7% 10.7MM /161MM | 6% 13.5MM / 161MM | 9% 15MM / 161MM | 9% 15MM / 161MM | +0 | 10% 16.5MM / 161MM |
| Rangeland Condition - Percent of permitted acres maintained at appropriate land conditions and water and air standards **(SP)** | Not Measured | 55% 39.3MM / 71.3MM | 56% 46.5MM / 83MM | 56% 46.5MM / 83MM | 57% 55MM / 96MM | +1 | 67% 108MM / 161MM |
| **Intermediate Outcome Goal 1: Provide access for grazing.** | | | | | | | |
| **Intermediate Outcome Measures:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Grazing Permit Processing/Timeliness - Average time (average reduction, number of days) for processing and issuance of grazing permits **(SP)** | Not Measured | 215 | 210 days | 210 days | 207 days | -3 | 200 |
| **Primary Outputs funded by this Subactivity:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Complete Ecological Site Inventory (acres) | 320,000 | 484,613 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 0 | 300,000 |
| Complete watershed assessments (acres) | 1,590,000 | 3,587,282 | 1,200,000 | 1,200,000 | 1,200,000 | 0 | 1,200,000 |
| Inventory Shrub/Grassland/PJ Vegetation (acres) | 4,880,000 | 2,253,384 | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 | 3,000,000 | 0 | 3,000,000 |
| Transfer Grazing Allotment Preferences (number) | 1,050 | 1,105 | 990 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 | 1,000 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Issue Grazing Allotment Permits/Leases ( cumulative number)* | 2,400 | 2,512 | 1,420 | 2,562 | 2,487 | -75 | 1,500 |
| Issue Grazing Use Authorizations (number) | 23,900 | 23,085 | 23,950 | 23,500 | 23,500 | 0 | 23,500 |
| Evaluate Rangeland Health (number) | 1,300 | 1,494 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,260 | -40 | 1,300 |
| Monitor Grazing Allotments (number) | 3,690 | 3,573 | 3,155 | 3,180 | 3,170 | -10 | 3,100 |
| Inspect Grazing Allotments for Compliance (number) | 5,450 | 4,748 | 4,700 | 4,500 | 4,100 | -400 | 3,500 |
| **DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Protection** | | | | | | | |
| **End Outcome Goal: Sustain biological communities on DOI managed and influenced lands and waters in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allotment and use of water.** | | | | | | | |
| ***** In 2004, a total of 2,512 Grazing Permits/Leases were issued: 1,504 were issued in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act, and 1,008 were renewed pursuant to language in the 2004 Appropriation Act. | | | | | | | |
| **End Outcome Measures:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Upland Acres: - Percent of acres achieving desired conditions where specified in management plans and condition is known, consistent with applicable substantive and procedural requirements of State and Federal water law. | Not Measured | 55% 39.3MM / 71.3MM | 56% 46.5MM / 83MM | 56% 46.5MM / 83MM | 57% 55MM / 96MM | +1 | 67% 108MM / 161MM |
| Invasive Species - Percent change from baseline in the number of acres infested with invasive plant species **(1.201**)** | Establish Baseline | 1.0% 316,480 / 35,762,000 | 0.9% 318,000 / 35,000,000 | 0.9% 318,000 / 35,000,000 | 0.9% 318,000 / 35,000,000 | 0 | -2.0% |
| **Primary Outputs funded by this Subactivity:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Inventory for Presence of Invasive and/or Noxious weeds (acres). | 8,280,000 | 8,928,009 | 9,500,000 | 9,500,000 | 9,750,000 | 250,000 | 10,000,000 |
| Apply Shrub/Grassland Vegetation Treatments (acres). | 147,000 | 120,901 | 113,000 | 113,000 | 100,000 | -13,000 | 90,000 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Construct Shrub, Grassland, Woodland, Forest Projects (number). | 285 | 218 | 200 | 200 | 190 | -10 | 150 |
| Maintain Shrub, Grassland, Woodland, Forest Projects (number). | 405 | 457 | 300 | 300 | 300 | 0 | 300 |
| Apply Weed Treatments (acres). | 266,000 | 258,093 | 225,000 | 225,000 | 230,000 | 5,000 | 300,000 |
| Evaluate Weed Treatments (acres). | 340,000 | 333,591 | 365,000 | 350,000 | 366,000 | 16,000 | 500,000 |
| Monitor Shrub/Grassland Vegetation Treatments (acres). | 25,000 | 13,274 | 40,000 | 35,000 | 35,000 | 0 | 30,000 |

# Activity: Land Resources
# Subactivity: Public Domain Forest Management

**SUBACTIVITY SUMMARY ($000)**

| | 2004 Actual Amount | 2005 Enacted Amount | Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/ -) Amount | Program Changes (+/ -) Amount | 2006 Budget Request Amount | Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2005 Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 8,093 | 8,895 | +205 | +1,459 | 10,559 | +1,664 |
| FTE | 75 | 81 | 0 | +5 | 86 | +5 |

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 2006 budget for the Public Domain Forest Management Program is $10,559,000 and 86 FTE.

The BLM manages 55 million acres of forests and woodlands, including 11 million acres of commercial forest and 44 million acres of woodlands within 11 western States and Alaska. Fifty-three million acres are productive forests and woodlands on Public Domain lands and 2.4 million acres are on Oregon and California Grant (O&C) lands in western Oregon; the O&C lands are discussed in the O&C Appropriation. Sixteen million acres of these forests and woodlands are in need of ecological restoration work, including mechanical thinning and tree species reintroduction. The primary emphasis of this program is offering a scientifically sound, environmentally responsible level of timber sales; as well as forest and woodland health restoration treatments.

Due to years of fire exclusion, forests and rangelands of the West have become unnaturally dense, and ecosystem health has suffered significantly. These conditions also threaten the health and safety of citizens living in the wildland-urban interface. To address this problem, on August 22, 2002, President Bush launched the Healthy Forests: An Initiative for Wildfire Prevention and Stronger Communities. This initiative focuses on reducing the risk of catastrophic fire by thinning dense undergrowth and brush in priority locations that are selected through a collaborative process with Federal, State, tribal, and local officials and communities. The Healthy Forests Initiative (HFI) also provides for more timely responses to disease and insect infestations that threaten forests. On December 3, 2003, President Bush signed into law the Healthy Forests Restoration Act to support the HFI and in further recognition of the need to address forest health. While the primary focus of HFI is on hazardous fuels reduction within the Wildland Fire Program, other BLM programs, and particularly the Public Domain Management program, contribute to meeting HFI goals.

Consistent with the mission goal of Resource Use, the BLM conducts a variety of forest management and restoration activities designed to improve forest health and productivity, provide sustainable commercial opportunities, provide forest resources for cultural uses, meet public demand for special products through the sale and trade of vegetative permits, and provide biomass for energy development.

Forest management and forest health restoration activities on BLM lands are funded primarily by four accounts: the Public Domain Forest Management program within the Management of Lands and Resources appropriation; the Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund, a permanent operating fund; the Oregon and California Grant Lands Appropriation; and the Timber Sale Pipeline Restoration Fund, another permanent operating fund. (See the O&C and the Permanent Operating Funds sections.)

The Public Domain Forest Management program provides the staff, equipment, and facilities needed to develop and manage forest and woodland projects on public domain forest lands. Many of the actual on-the-ground project costs are funded through the Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund, which is dedicated to restoring forest health by salvaging dead and dying timber; reforesting areas degraded by natural or human disturbance; reducing tree density with pre-commercial and commercial thinning, and reducing competition by removing smaller trees and other forest vegetation.

**Setting Priorities in Public Domain Forestry**
**To Gain Efficiencies**

**The restoration and maintenance of public domain lands drives the forest management program for the BLM**. Of the 52 million total acres of forest and woodlands, 16 million acres have been identified as being in need of treatments to achieve a healthy condition.

BLM is implementing a national strategy to address forest health conditions by strategically treating high priority forests and woodlands. Funding priorities for the program in order are:

a) **Salvage** opportunities, focusing on areas still containing hazardous fuels, and taking into consideration, wildlife habitats, watershed health, soils stability, local economic opportunities, or forest management concerns.
b) **Forest health restoration** projects that improve forest resiliency to disturbances from wildfires, insects & diseases, and reduce hazardous fuel loadings. Projects in or next to wildland urban interface areas are highest priority
c) **Commercial and /or personal use** opportunities for vegetative products produced from forest, woodland, and fuel management treatments.

Federal, State, tribal and local governments are making unprecedented efforts to restore forests and rangelands to healthy conditions. The Public Domain Forestry Management program will

continue efforts to improve forest health, generate biomass for energy production, and provide commercial opportunities for local communities.

The focus of the Public Domain Forest Management program in 2006 will be to continue implementing a strategy to increase forest health restoration treatments and biomass utilization, including updating forest inventories to better track the condition of the forest resources. In addition, Public Domain Forest Management will continue to support the Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund. The Public Domain Forest Management program together with the Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund will allow for the treatment of 25,000 acres (the outputs on the 1030 performance table do not include FEHRF outputs) and the production of 42 million board feet of wood products.

The forestry program is working to offset restoration costs through the use of stewardship projects and timber sale contracts for biomass and forest products. The BLM is actively developing projects for energy in terms of biomass and small diameter wood products for a variety of markets. Small industries are beginning to emerge in "made to order" flooring and furniture. As these markets develop, BLM is poised to provide a sustainable product.

All forest management activities support the protection and management of all resources, including habitat for wildlife species. Efforts are taken to ensure that research guides the development and implementation of species recovery plans; wildlife and fisheries habitat is improved; the ecological impacts and resource trends are monitored; Federal and State laws and regulations are complied with, including the State non-point source management plan; and that best management practices are used on watersheds to minimize non-point source pollution from BLM lands.

This program supports the Department's Resource Use mission goal to manage forest resources to enhance public benefit, promote responsible use, and ensure optimal value. It also supports the Department's Resource Protection mission goal to sustain biological communities. Each mission goal of the Strategic Plan has several performance measures to gauge progress towards meeting mission goal accomplishments, including end outcome goals and measures, intermediate outcome goals and measures, and primary outputs.

## 2004 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2004, the BLM met or exceeded most of the primary outputs planned in the Public Domain Forestry Management program. Actual land treated was comparable to 2003 levels, but fell short of our established target for FY04. This was a function of many projects being awarded, but ground activities not commencing in FY04. The volume of forest products offered increased 35% from 2003, exceeding the volume target established for FY 2004. Coupled with the similar increase in FY2003 in volume offered compared to FY2002, this could be a signal that opportunities for biomass utilization are increasing from forestry and fuels treatments. In 2004, the Public Domain Forest Management program focused on:

- Developing and implementing national policy to provide excess forest biomass for the production of bio-energy and other wood products, including offering small diameter trees from forest health and fuel reduction projects. The BLM is fully supporting areas where there is an interest in pursuing biomass utilization.

- Implementing the new Stewardship Contracting Authority. Twenty-two stewardship contracts were awarded in FY2004. In addition, the Bureau's stewardship projects will produce, as a by-product, 14 million board feet (MMBF) of sawtimber, 1.2 MMBF of other wood products, and over 26,000 tons of biomass (chips) for energy production.

- Modifying forest vegetation, composition, and structure (both inside and outside the wildland-urban interface) using commercial and non-commercial treatments to make forests more resilient to the effects of fire, insects, disease, and other disturbances; improving watershed health, with resulting benefits to fish and wildlife habitat; and, enhancing tree growth and overall forest productivity. The Public Domain Forest Management program together with the Forest Ecosystem Health and Recovery Fund treated over 18,000 acres.

- Reforesting areas disturbed by natural or human disturbance, and reestablishing fire-resistant native plant communities, including controlling invasive exotic species such as knapweed and yellow star-thistle, and exotic diseases such as sudden oak death and white pine blister rust.

- Conducting sales of forest products including timber, firewood, posts, poles, ornamental plants, and biomass (for energy production) to provide both economic return for the Federal Government and commercial opportunities for local communities. The BLM offered and sold over 32 MMBF of wood products generating $1.2 million in revenue from these sales.

- Developing and maintaining an inventory of forest and woodland vegetation to support management decisions and determine sustainable levels of production or growth.

The BLM treated approximately 18,000 acres and offered 46 MMBF of forests products for sale from Public Domain forest lands in 2004.

*The Public Domain forests provided 46 MMBF of wood products in 2004.*

As stated above, the actual amount treated fell short of the target for FY2004. Setting targets are problematic because many things are not within the control of BLM. Targets are set estimating the expected activity from purchasers and contracts. Multiyear service, stewardship, and timber sale contracts, litigation delays, fire closures, extensions, changes in purchaser plans, etc., all can contribute to the forest management program not meeting a yearly target or exceeding a target.

On the other hand, volume offered of wood products increased from 33.8 MMBF in FY03 to

over 46 MMBF in FY2004, far exceeding the FY2004 target of 34MMBF.

**Stewardship Contracting Projects**: In 2004, Congress gave the BLM authority to enter into stewardship contracting (PL 108-7). Stewardship authority allows vegetative products to be exchanged for ecological restoration services, including thinning and removing brush. This will enable the BLM to leverage appropriated dollars and increase accomplishments on-the-ground by offsetting costs. Treatment costs are expected to be offset in areas where there are opportunities to utilize the by-products of these treatments.

An example is the Bobar stewardship project located in Southern Oregon. A large number of small trees in this area have prevented it from being logged as a typical timber sale. This small material does create fuels loading problems as it is within the Wildland Urban Interface of the Applegate community. Reduction of this material would have been accomplished by paying a contractor to pile and burn the material prior to receiving the stewardship contracting authority. However, the stewardship authority allowed the BLM to offset $48,000 of the cost by trading of the material.

Though the Stewardship authority will allow more acres to be treated in the long run, it will take time to develop markets for smaller diameter wood material. In more remote areas the cost of hauling the material often out weigh the market price which results in no bids on these contracts. The BLM continues to work with partners to develop more efficient stewardship projects.

In 2004, BLM Public Domain Forestry Management projects included the following:

- The BLM in partnership with Northern Arizona University (NAU), the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), and a steering committee of diverse interests, has been engaged in a long-term cooperative project to restore the Mt. Trumbull ponderosa pine ecosystem on the Arizona Strip. The project is in its seventh year. Twelve restoration units (approximately 2000 acres) have been treated or are in the process of being treated either by harvesting trees for wood products, thinning of smaller trees, prescribed burning, reseeding or a combination of these treatments.

*The Bobar Stewardship project sends chips to a local biomass plant, which produces electricity.*

- Idaho successfully awarded four forest stewardship contracts that will harvest 13,392 MBF of sawtimber and 16,707 tons of biomass, including Whiskey South near Grangeville. Idaho also sold 7,222 MBF of sawtimber in support of the Forest Ecosystem Health Recovery Fund (5900), exceeding the overall timber target by 156%. A recent hazardous fuel reduction project (Jackass Creek) completed by the Coeur d'Alene Field Office was recognized in the Shoshone County Wildland Urban Interface Mitigation Plan as "one particular parcel managed by the BLM that showcases exemplary management for reducing fire risk in the wildland-urban interface.

- Montana - After several years of planning and delays, timber harvest and fuels reduction began in the spring of 2004 near Clancy and south of Helena. Contractors will treat approximately 1,420 acres of forest and woodlands through a combination of timber harvest, tree thinning, hazardous fuels reduction and prescribed burning. Planning started in 1997 as the Clancy Unionville Landscape Vegetation Project in partnership with the Helena National Forest and in cooperation with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. The project was put on hold after the severe fire season of 2000 when higher priority rehabilitation and restoration work was needed in areas affected by wildfire, especially near Canyon Ferry and Boulder Hill. The project was made more complex due to housing developments on adjacent private lands and increasing use of public lands which sometimes led to user conflicts. The logging/fuels project is designed to accommodate a wide range of activities, reduce the risk to users, and minimize wildlife disturbance and soil erosion. When the Butte Field Office proceeded with implementation in September 2003, both projects were protested. The protests were denied and the Interior Board of Land Appeals affirmed BLM's decisions in January paving the way for project implementation.

- Oregon - The Little Canyon Mountain project addresses hazardous fuels issues on 2,200 acres of BLM lands immediately adjacent to the communities of Canyon City and John Day Oregon. In 2002, concerned citizens of Grant County, Oregon requested the BLM take action to address the immediate wildfire danger threatening their homes due to fuels buildup on adjacent public lands. This group of citizens comprised of adjacent landowners, local city officials, and other local residents hosted several public meetings where they expressed their concerns and described their desired outcome. BLM was actively involved in developing the desired outcomes. The momentum created by this group of citizens and the BLM combined to make this project a success. These 2,200 acres occur in the Wildland Urban Interface area of Canyon City and John Day, Oregon.

- Wyoming - To respond to public demand the Rock Springs Field office designed a restoration project that would meet the demand for fuel wood and provide for fuel hazard reduction. An area was opened in the fall of 2004 to satisfy the public fuel wood need and protect adjacent timbered areas from future impacts from fire. Public response of this project has been very positive.

## 2005 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ESTIMATES

The goal of the PD Forest Management program is to manage and restore the 16 million acres of forests and woodlands in greatest need of ecological restoration work and to provide wood products by rebuilding capacity in the forestry program. In 2005, the BLM plans to meet all targets and will continue to focus on forest treatments by implementing a strategy to restore the highest priority acres within expected budget levels. The BLM will focus on:

- Advancing the goals of the President's Healthy Forests Initiative and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, the BLM will continue to revitalize and build capacity in the Public Domain Forest Management program, hiring staff to design and implement contracts, including stewardship projects, and will assist with other aspects of implementing the Healthy Forests Initiative.

- Implementation of stewardship contracting – The BLM will double the number of stewardship projects awarded that are designed to improve forest and woodland health. This will be accomplished by implementing lessons learned from the first year of stewardship contracting and capitalizing on successes in collaboration with local and rural communities.

- Implementing national policy to provide excess forest biomass for the production of bio-energy, including offering small diameter trees from forest health and fuel reduction projects. The BLM will establish three biomass demonstration areas in Oregon, Alaska and Colorado. The focus of the demonstration areas is to stimulate utilization of biomass, provide regional expertise for harvesting, education and assist with national duties in biomass utilization. The BLM is exploring opportunities to expand markets for biomass from fuel reduction and forest health projects. Long-term contracts, using the authorities under stewardship contracting, are anticipated to lead to entrepreneurial development of markets for the by-products from treatments of forests, woodlands and rangelands. The by-products result from mechanical treatments, which help achieve the President's Healthy Forests Initiative by reducing hazardous fuels and restoring fire-adapted ecosystems.

- Improving forest resiliency to disturbances from insects, disease and wildfires, as well as restoring habitats for special status species.

*Forest Health thinning produces a sustainable supply of wood products and restores the forest.*

- Producing a sustainable supply of timber and other forest products, primarily by implementing forest health restoration projects. Activities will focus on salvaging damaged timber and other forest projects following wildfire, insect and disease outbreak, and other natural events. The BLM expects to offer for sale 38 million board feet of forest products, an increase from the amount planned in 2005 Budget Justifications, and to treat 23,000 acres of Public Domain Forest management lands.

- Supporting local economies and generating an estimated $2.5 million in revenues to the Federal government from the sale of timber and other forest products. In addition, BLM is expanding into new markets by developing a wood fiber utilization policy for timber sale and service contracts in order to effectively manage lower-value, smaller diameter forest and woodland materials as well as high-value timber products.

The BLM will continue to implement the following recommendations from a program review in 2001 and 2002:

- Increase forestry expertise at the State and field office level to support the development of silvicultural plans and utilize wood fiber associated with forest and woodland fuels reduction projects.
- Implement a strategy to update baseline forest and woodland resource information.
- Continue to use performance cost data to determine funding allocations to the field.
- Increase the use of commercial forest management activities where appropriate to reduce forest fuels, focusing on the wildland urban interface.

## JUSTIFICATION OF 2006 PROGRAM CHANGES

**2006 Program Changes**

| | 2006 Budget Request | Program Changes (+/-) |
|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 10,559 | +1,459 |
| FTE | 86 | +5 |

The 2006 budget request for the Public Domain Forestry Management program is $10,559,000 and 86 FTE, a program change of +$1,459,000 and +5 FTE from the 2005 level.

The goal of the PD Forest Management program is to manage and restore the 16 million acres of forests and woodlands needing ecological restoration work and to provide wood products by rebuilding capacity in the forestry program. The requested increase of $1.5 million is based on opportunities identified in BLM's Forest and Woodland State Action Plans (ref. IM – 2003-035, Implementing the President's Healthy Forests Initiative). The requested increase would represent the third year of ramp up of the PD Forest Management program.

***Forest Management (+$1,500,000) –*** To advance the goals of the President's Healthy Forests Initiative and the recently passed Healthy Forest Restoration Act, the BLM will use additional funding to continue to revitalize and build capacity in the Public Domain Forest Management program. Funding will be used to restore an additional 2, 100 acres of forests and woodlands. An increase in treated acres provides wood products for a sustainable supply of commercial forest products and reduces fuel loading. Forest stand thinning and planting improve forest resiliency to disturbances from insects, disease, and wildfire and restores habitats for special status species. These 2,100 acres of restoration treatments are accounted for in the performance tables in the output measures of applying treatments, restoring forest and woodlands through sales and development. Funding will also provide an additional four million board feet of wood products.

BLM will use $.4 million to restore field expertise (5 FTE) where technical expertise is needed to design and prepare projects to utilize biomass and wood products, including timber sale, service, and stewardship contracts. New positions would be placed in areas that have the highest productivity and workload. This additional staff will also work with fire and fuels

management personnel in reducing wildfire threats to people, communities, and forest and woodland resources.

The $1.1 million will be used to restore an additional 2, 100 acres and offer approximately 4 MMBF of wood products for sale; bringing the total volume offered to 42 MMBF of forest products on PD lands. The anticipated total acres of Primary Output (Restore Forest and Woodlands through Sales) will occur in 2007 through 2010 as sales are harvested and Stewardship contracts are implemented. Of the $1.1 million, $0.2 million will be used to inventory forest and woodland conditions on an additional 30,000 acres and to develop strategies to restore and improve forest and woodland conditions. Strategic plans, including community wildfire protection plans, will identify areas that are priorities for treatment, thereby allowing BLM to locate projects to get the most beneficial effect from forest health and fuels treatments. These projects work toward the goals outlined above. Priority will be given to projects that fulfill the requirements of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. The following projects would be supported with the increased funding:

Death Valley Forest Restoration – Arizona, This project will help to restore resiliency to disturbance and reduce excessive erosion in ponderosa pine and pinyon/juniper ecosystem in the Upper Lang's Run watershed in Northern Arizona. Currently the ponderosa forest is at risk of loss to catastrophic fire and the PJ woodland is eroding excessively due to lack of effective ground cover. This project will restore approximately 400 acres utilizing mechanical treatments and prescribed fire.

Arroyo Hondo Woodland Management – New Mexico, The Rio Puerto Field Office within the Albuquerque District has approximately 50,000 acres of woodland within Sandoval County. This project will conduct forest and woodland restoration of over 1900 acres over a 5 year period. This project will also benefit other multiple resource objectives. This project will also provide local communities, specifically the village of Cuba, and the County Regional development organization with the commercial harvest of woodland products.

Gerber Stew (Stewardship Contracting) – Klamath Falls Field Office in the Lakeview District. This project is one of the most unique and productive stewardship projects which demonstrates the flexibility of stewardship contracting. The entire project over the seven year span of the contract could treat up to 10,000 acres of public lands. The project was developed in close collaboration with local publics, adjacent land owners and a multitude of government cooperators. The project is treating juniper woodlands and pine/fir forest types, producing a variety of forest product from biomass for energy, to juniper flooring and typical saw log material.

Western Juniper Management (Biomass) – California, The Alturas Field Office in conjunction with neighboring BLM field offices and the Modoc National Forest are completing an EIS on 6.6 million acres of juniper woodlands. This project will treat 1500 acres in 2005 and will grow to 5000 acres per year in 2008. Additionally, 10,000 to 50,000 tons of biomass will be utilized per year by local co-generation facilities. The project is supported by the local RC&D, National Forests, Modoc and Lassen County Boards of Supervisors and many others.

***Narrowband Radio Savings and Other Program Efficiencies (-$41,000) –*** In 2006, the BLM will realize significant cost savings and efficiencies within the narrowband radio program, because it will have completed the required transition from VHF to UHF frequencies. Also in 2006, the BLM will continue improvements in the areas of travel and transportation management, Information Technology, vehicle fleet management, and other administrative support, producing further cost savings.

**PUBLIC DOMAIN FOREST MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

| **DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Use** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **End Outcome Goal: Manage or influence resource use to enhance public benefit, promote responsible use, and ensure optimal value – forest products.** | | | | | | | |
| **End Outcome Measure:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Commercial Timber Offered - Volume of timber offered for sale. Report PD lands only for this subactivity. | 33.8 | 46.5 | 36.0 | 38.0 | 42.0 | +4.0 | 42.0 |
| Commercial Timber Offered - Percent of allowable sale quantity (ASQ) offered for sale. Report PD lands only for this subactivity. | 106% 33.8/32 | 137% 46.48/34 | 113% 36/32 | 100% 38/38 | 100% 42/42 | 0 | 100% |
| Forestland/Woodland Condition - Percent of permitted acres maintained at appropriate land conditions and water quality standards. Report PD lands only for this subactivity | Establish Baseline | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% | 0 | 100% |
| Administrative cost per million board feet of timber offered for sale. SP Report PD lands only for this subactivity. | Establish Baseline | 176,012 | Report Actual | 125,000 | 125,000 | 0 | 120,000 |
| **Primary Outputs funded by this Subactivity:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Inventory Forest/Woodland Vegetation (acres). | 238,000 | 356,907 | 250,000 | 250,000 | 280,000 | +30,000 | 280,000 |
| Prepare Vegetative Permits/Contracts. (number) | 23,800 | 25,775 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 25,000 | 0 | 25,000 |
| Apply Commercial Forest and Woodland Management Treatments (acres). | 1,100 | 773 | 1,700 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 0 | 1,100 |
| Manage Forest and Woodland Commercial Sales (acres). | 2,800 | 2,440 | 3,500 | 2,800 | 2,800 | 0 | 2,800 |
| Restore Forest and Woodlands through Sales (acres). | 620 | 1,100 | 1,700 | 1,980 | 2,680 | +700 | 3,280 |
| Restore Forest and Woodlands through development (acres). | 2,400 | 3,857 | 3,400 | 3,800 | 5,200 | +1,400 | 5,200 |
| Evaluate Forest/Woodland Treatments (acres). | 6,200 | 5,620 | 11,000 | 11,000 | 12,000 | +1,000 | 12,000 |

# Activity: Land Resources
# Subactivity: Riparian Management

**SUBACTIVITY SUMMARY ($000)**

| | 2004 Actual Amount | 2005 Enacted Amount | Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/ -) Amount | Program Changes (+/ -) Amount | 2006 Budget Request Amount | Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2005 Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 22,015 | 21,228 | +590 | -114 | 21,704 | +476 |
| FTE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 2006 budget request for the Riparian Management program is $21,704,000 and 199 FTE.

The BLM manages over 23 million acres of land classified as riparian or wetland. These areas, while comprising only about nine percent of the total BLM-managed land, include or support some of the most ecologically diverse and important plant and animal communities occurring on public lands. Riparian areas and wetlands include streams and rivers, lakes and ponds, reservoirs, bogs or swamps, springs, and the narrow strips of land along the edge of many of these bodies of water. They provide habitat for 80 percent of the wildlife and fish species found on BLM land. These areas are critical to wildlife and water quality, ranching, and provide a high value recreational experience for millions of Americans. Healthy, functioning riparian areas and wetlands filter sediment substances, reduce downstream flooding, store water, and recharge vital underground aquifers. Management of riparian areas and wetlands is a key issue on public rangelands. The BLM places a high priority on the land health and improvement of riparian areas and

*Riparian specialists understand that for riparian projects to be successful, actions must compliment the physical properties of the streams and adjacent landscapes. Trees, shrubs and grasses are planted to provide stream bank stabilization reducing sedimentation in the stream. Planting also provides shade, which reduces stream temperature.*

wetlands.

Riparian areas and wetlands are the key components in the BLM's effort to manage public lands on a watershed basis. They often reflect the overall health of a watershed and affect the health of other ecosystems. Riparian area restoration continues to be a high priority in the BLM. Authorizing sustainable uses on the public lands, while protecting and improving riparian and wetland areas by cooperatively developing and implementing sustainable management strategies, is also a high priority. Assessing overall resource health and monitoring management effectiveness to determine future actions will ensure steady resource condition improvement and achievement of resource objectives.

*Before: Beginning in 1990, BLM, several state and federal agencies and private land owners initiated a program of fencing and prescribed grazing within the Dixie Creek watershed. The lower five miles were protected in 1990, while a riparian pasture fence was constructed in the upper seven miles in 1997. Grazing management systems were put into place which limited grazing to early season of use or occasional light use.*

*After: Considered a success, the riparian pasture fencing completed in the upper reaches of Dixie Creek removed grazing during the hot season in critical Lahontan cutthroat trout habitat, an action started in the 1998 grazing season. Other planned management actions for the Dixie Creek watershed include fencing and protection of important nonstream riparian habitats such as cottonwood and aspen stands, wet meadows and spring sites.*

In 2006, the principal program priorities are to:

- Continue implementation of the initiative "Creeks and Communities: A Continuing Strategy for Accelerating Cooperative Riparian Restoration and Management."
- Focus efforts in watersheds that fail to meet resource objectives (high priority watersheds).
- Identify priority watersheds to focus restoration efforts with special emphasis on watersheds that contain habitat for sage-grouse.
- Provide input into all levels of planning.
- Continue the monitoring efforts using Proper Functioning Condition assessments.
- Initiate restoration efforts in riparian areas and wetlands in less than proper functioning condition. Though our emphasis and goal is improvement and "no net loss" of riparian-wetlands we are looking to provide, where and when possible, for an overall increase of riparian-wetlands in miles of stream or acres.

- Continue efforts to establish and utilize partnerships to help leverage available funds.

This program supports the Resource Protection mission goal from the Department's Strategic Plan. The key intermediate outcome measures of performance include increasing the percent of lands and waters managed or influenced by the BLM for which condition is known, and the percent of priority acres or miles targeted for restoration where treatments are completed to achieve a desired condition.

Primary output measures of performance include inventories (emphasis on invasive and noxious weeds), conducting assessments, and implementing projects in riparian areas and wetlands that focus on sage-grouse needs of the habitat, and ensuring environmentally sound energy development and management of OHV use through involvement in the land use planning process. (See the "Riparian Management Performance Summary" at the end of this program discussion).

## 2004 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2004, the BLM exceeded most of its goals for primary outputs. Of note was the accomplishment of watershed level assessments. Over a million acres of public land were inventoried and assessed. This shift shows the desired focus from specific uses like grazing allotment-specific assessments to the recognition of the strong connection and interdependence on watersheds and a community's dependence on them for their economic health. In addition the focus of the National Riparian Service Team on the "Creeks and Communities" strategy has enabled us to meet with our partners, share holders, and interested public and agree on mutually attainable goals and objectives for not only riparian areas but entire watersheds. Some examples of the accomplishments in the Riparian Management program in 2004:

- The BLM in southeast Montana contributed a majority of the acres of watershed assessments. BLM is developing and conducting the assessments and evaluations of riparian-wetlands to prepare and keep up with the demand for coal bed methane natural gas and other energy development (Powder and Tongue Rivers).

- In Bakersfield California, the BLM inventoried wetland and riparian habitat at Case Mountain to support the Sprague exchange which will increase the acres of wetland-riparian lands under BLM administration and modified livestock grazing plans (not eliminated or excluded grazing) at Case Mountain to protect the riparian areas. The BLM has maintained riparian exclosures and fences completed wetland and riparian treatments on the 50 acres of ponds and canals (two miles) at Atwell Island, and monitored wetlands and riparian habitat to ensure their continued protection and enhancement at Atwell, Case Mountain, Lamont Meadow, Pine Creek and the Fresno River.

- As an example of the emphasis that is being given to riparian restoration in the control of invasive and noxious weeds in New Mexico on the West Amarillo Creek and the Canadian River in Texas, where BLM treated 265 acres of salt cedar by mechanical means i.e. chainsaws and hand and machine piling. In the Moab, Utah area BLM is continuing and expanding their restoration work with not only mechanical treatments but using chemical,

biological and prescribed fire to reduce the invasive and noxious weeds along the Colorado, Dolores and Green Rivers. The areas are expected to reestablish with the native vegetation.

**Use of Cost and Performance Information in the Riparian Management Program**

In 2003, the BLM began utilizing cost management data to compare cost and performance for a mid-year review with the State Riparian Program Managers. Although funding was not redistributed between State Offices, the evaluation provided valuable information about the costs and the work load faced by each State Office.

In 2004, the BLM continued to evaluate riparian management cost and performance information to determine the amount of and reasons for variations in performance between States and Field Offices. The evaluations showed that the States were focusing efforts on priority program elements with an overall improvement of 28% in 2003 to 68% in 2004. In addition, the BLM continued to monitor the direct costs of completing workloads.

## 2005 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ESTIMATES

The BLM anticipates meeting the targets set in the 2005 Budget Justifications. BLM will focus on watershed assessments in priority watersheds that include integrated projects related to improvement, enhancement and protection of wetlands and riparian areas, assessments for Proper functioning conditions, healthy rangelands, and weed control activities. Examples of projects include the following:

*The North Fork Crooked River assessment being led by the joint BLM/FS National Riparian Service Team in partnership and the Crook County Natural Resource Planning Committee.*

- BLM-Colorado will work in partnership with Colorado Division of Wildlife, Western State College, and Ducks Unlimited to create a wetland on lands that were recently acquired. Currently, these lands include a reservoir with the water storage area to create ten acres of wetlands on the margin of the reservoir.

- Another project plan in Colorado has been developed to address the increase in demand for public land resources within the Cold Springs/Diamond watershed. The plan will include the following components: vegetation management; forest health; habitats for special status plants and animals; Wilderness Study Areas and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern values; travel management; wildlife habitat management; and cultural and environmental education. The area is 70% BLM

administered with the rest private, state and National Wildlife Refuge lands. All the land owners are willing and have contributed dollars to implement the plan.

- The National Riparian Service Team, experts from the BLM and USFS, continue to maintain and improve efficient and effective conservation partnerships through State/Regional level agency briefings *(southwest, intermountain states),* developing training material designed to increase Network member skills in human/social interaction, and provide support to programs through activities that foster consistency and effectiveness in monitoring and adaptive management *(working with protocol developers, program managers, field personnel and others).*

## JUSTIFICATION OF 2006 PROGRAM CHANGES

**2006 PROGRAM CHANGES**

| | 2006 Budget Request | Program Changes (+/-) |
|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 21,704 | -114 |
| FTE | 199 | 0 |

The 2006 budget request for the Riparian Management program is $21,704,000 and 199 FTE, a program change of $-114,000and 0 FTE from the 2005 level.

***Program Efficiencies (-$114,000)*** - In 2006, the BLM will realize significant cost savings and efficiencies within the narrowband radio program, because it will have completed the required transition from wideband to narrowband technology. Also in 2006, the BLM will continue improvements in the areas of travel and transportation management, Information Technology, vehicle fleet management, and other administrative support, producing further cost savings.

**RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

| **DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Protection** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **End Outcome Goal: Improve the health of watersheds, landscapes, and marine resources that are DOI managed or influenced in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allotment and use of water.** | | | | | | | |
| **End Outcome Measures:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Wetland areas - Percent of acres achieving desired conditions where condition is known and as specified in management plans (SP) | 98% 12,560,354 / 12,817,227 | 98% 12,568,840 / 12,821,457 | 98% 12,564,000 / 12,817,227 | 98% 12,568,840 / 12,821,457 | 98% 12,573,240 / 12,821,457 | 4,400 acres | 99% 12,690,000 / 12,821,457 |
| Riparian areas - Percent of stream-miles achieving desired conditions where condition is known and as specified in management plans (SP) | 91% 126,821/ 140,096 | 89% 128,765/ 144,138 | 91% 127,500/ 140,096 | 89% 128,765/ 144,138 | 89% 128,965/ 144,138 | 200 miles | 91% 131,166/ 144,138 |
| **Primary Outputs funded by this Subactivity:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Assess Watershed (acres). | 890,000 | 5,656,495 | 0 | 757,000 | 750,000 | -7,000 | 700,000 |
| Inventory for Presence of Invasive and/or Noxious weeds (acres). | 17,000 | 14,426 | 0 | 12,000 | 12,000 | 0 | 10,000 |
| Inventory Lakes/Wetland Areas (acres). | 171,000 | 3,741 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 6,000 | -1,000 | 5,000 |
| Apply Lake/Wetland Treatments (acres). | 1,100 | 1,121 | 1,500 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 | 1,500 |
| Apply Weed Treatments (acres). | 950 | 1,027 | 0 | 1,100 | 1,100 | 0 | 1,500 |
| Apply Stream/Riparian Treatments (miles). | 675 | 417 | 275 | 200 | 225 | 25 | 300 |
| Construct Lake/Wetland/Stream/Riparian Projects (number). | 230 | 231 | 266 | 150 | 150 | 0 | 150 |
| Maintain Lake/Wetland/Stream/Riparian Projects (number). | 675 | 969 | 860 | 500 | 500 | 0 | 700 |
| Monitor Lake/Wetland Habitat (acres). | 9,700 | 6,112 | 10,000 | 4,000 | 4,000 | 0 | 5,000 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monitor Stream/Riparian Habitat (miles). | 2,900 | 2,658 | 1,589 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 0 | 1,500 |

# Activity: Land Resources
# Subactivity: Cultural Resource Management

**SUBACTIVITY SUMMARY ($000)**

| | 2004 Actual Amount | 2005 Enacted Amount | Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/ -) Amount | Program Changes (+/ -) Amount | 2006 Budget Request Amount | Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2005 Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 15,479 | 14,925 | +390 | -75 | 15,240 | +315 |
| FTE | 137 | 136 | 0 | 0 | 136 | 0 |

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 2006 budget request for the Cultural Resource Management program is $15,240,000 and 136 FTE.

The Cultural Resource Management program supports sustainable multiple use, the President's National Energy Plan, the Administration's National Fire Plan, and the Healthy Forest Initiative by streamlining the Section 106 compliance process using its National Programmatic Agreement. The program involves communities in stewardship activities through challenge cost-share and partnerships. It encourages citizen-based conservation using monitoring programs such as Site Stewards. Cultural and paleontological resources enhance recreational opportunities and heritage tourism using interpreted venues and BLM museums. These resources are protected via stabilization and other management initiatives. The Cultural Resource Management program improves the image, awareness, and understanding of the BLM through the world-class resources it offers, as well as through museum exhibits where excavated artifacts and fossils from public lands are displayed.

This program supports the Resource Protection mission goal in the Department's Strategic Plan by protecting cultural and fossil resources. Key intermediate outcome measures of Resource Protection include increasing partnerships, volunteer opportunities, and stakeholder satisfaction (refer to the Cultural Resource Management Performance Summary at the end of this subactivity discussion). Cultural and paleontological resources are a partial indicator of the health of the land; resources in "good" condition generally indicate public lands that are in better health.

The Cultural Resource Management program manages the archaeological, historic, and paleontological resources found on public lands, including those located within BLM National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) units. These constitute an amazing array of world-

class resources. Archaeological and historic resources, collectively referred to as "cultural resources," include cliff dwellings, mines and stamp mills, immense ground figures and rock alignments known as "intaglios," abstract, realistic and anthropomorphic rock art renderings, abandoned military outposts and homesteads, "ghost" towns, Indian and emigrant trails, lighthouses, and much more. The BLM has responsibility for an estimated 4 to 4.5 million cultural resources, which represent a significant part of our nation's heritage, especially in the West. Undamaged, these resources can tell us when people first arrived on the continent, how they dispersed, how cultures flourished, what led to their demise, how they perceived their spiritual world, how they interacted with other groups, how they exploited and perhaps overexploited their environment, how they treated the dead, how and why they came into conflict, and much more.

*Moon House, located in Monticello County, Utah, contains fully intact rooms depicting pictographs showing the phases of the moon and other prehistoric motifs. These motifs may have been used prehistorically to document the "Lunar Standstill," which occurs every 18 1/2 years. The site has become a major tourist destination, which is causing some of the plaster to be lost. Some stabilization has been undertaken, but more work is required to control visitor use, develop a trail, and prepare interpretive materials.*

Paleontology, or the study of fossils and ancient life forms, is also funded by the Cultural Resource program. Fossils relate the story of origins and endings played out over nearly 4 billion years of the Earth's 4.5-billion year history. BLM manages more than 200 properties wholly or in part for their paleontological values, encompassing more than 5 million acres within NLCS and non-NLCS lands (i.e., Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Special Management Areas). Significant paleontological resources can also be found on millions of additional acres of BLM lands. Fossils are important for the story they tell about the development of life on Earth and about the physical changes in the Earth itself. They provide clues to a myriad of important and intriguing questions, from the topic of dinosaur extinctions to studies of plate tectonics, or the geology of the Earth's structural deformation.

Heritage resources are a strong attraction for visitors from all over the world, with increasing visitor use concentrated on rock art sites, emigrant trails, abandoned homesteads, mining towns, and fossil-rich areas. These fragile resources are easily and negatively impacted by both natural processes, such as erosion, natural deterioration, weathering, arroyo cutting, and human agents, such as looters, vandals, recreationists, developers.

BLM's cultural and fossil resources, including museum collections derived from public lands, have economic, scientific, recreational, cultural, and educational value. Cultural resources in particular are important to Indian and Native Alaska communities that draw their spiritual and physical connections to the sites and traditional cultural properties on public lands; also, adjacent non-Indian communities are often bound to the public lands because of on-going or historic economic ties to these lands.

Cultural Resource Management program priorities in 2006 will include:

- Inventorying, evaluating, protecting, studying, stabilizing, and managing archaeological, historical, and paleontological resources;
- Increasing the number of BLM cultural and fossil resources that contribute to community economic development initiatives, including heritage tourism;
- Developing heritage education, outreach, and interpretive products that promote public appreciation of heritage resources and stimulate heritage tourism;
- Developing information for land use plans, including fire management plans;
- Issuing and overseeing cultural and paleontological resource use permits;
- Coordinating with other agencies on data administration needs;
- Performing tasks required under the 1997 National Programmatic Agreement and the various State Protocols for complying with the National Historic Preservation Act;
- Responding to public requests for information about heritage resources;
- Conducting tribal consultation under cultural resource authorities, including the *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act* ;
- Developing assistance agreements and partnerships with other Federal and non-Federal entities to preserve, enhance and use BLM's heritage resources;
- Supervising volunteers who assist BLM to protect and manage cultural and paleontological resources; and
- Working with non-Federal museums that curate archaeological and fossil collections derived from public lands to make the collections more accessible.

**Use of Performance and Cost Management Data in the Cultural Resource Management Program**

Inventories of public lands to document cultural and fossil resources are an important part of the Cultural Resource program; use of cost management data has aided the BLM in maximizing the number of inventories conducted with available funding.

For example, cost management data on the average cost for conducting inventories using BLM employees has allowed the program to evaluate proposals by contractors to perform the same work. Over time, the average cost for in-house inventories is beginning to more closely mirror the cost for cultural inventories undertaken by contractors. However, in-house average costs will typically be less because BLM conducts many of these inventories under challenge cost share agreements that often involve use of "free" volunteers. Nonetheless, cost management data provides data that allows for better comparisons of costs for in-house vs. contractor-undertaken work.

Careful monitoring and tracking of expenditures through the BLM's Management Information System has improved managers' awareness and concern about indirect costs, resulting in decreased unit costs for work activities such as monitoring cultural properties and a higher proportion of cultural resource management funding spent on priority work.

BLM's National Programmatic Agreement, entered into with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers on March 26,

1997, establishes a framework and mechanism by which BLM carries out its responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act. Relying on BLM's well-developed guidance in its 8100 Manual series, an experienced professional staff, and an enduring commitment to historic preservation, BLM assumes more of the historic preservation responsibility without case-by-case Council and SHPO review. The BLM benefits from this arrangement in several important ways. The PA streamlines Section 106 compliance allowing an expedited review of BLM-approved undertakings, including those that support this Administration's priorities, particularly energy development, fire management, and enhanced visitor services; additionally, the streamlined process allows for increased staff time and energy to perform proactive work, including resource protection and interpretation. In the case of fire management, for example, the existence of the PA has enabled the Cultural Resource program to keep abreast of the hundreds of thousands of acres of fuels management projects needing to be assessed annually.

Consistent with Executive Order 13287 (Preserve America), signed by President Bush on March 3, 2003, BLM continues to focus on on-the-ground projects that contribute to community economic development, sustainable heritage tourism, and improved visitor services. The Cultural Resource program will work collaboratively with BLM's Recreation program and partners to develop these opportunities.

BLM's Cultural Resource program will continue to protect and stabilize cultural and paleontological resources found on the public lands, so that future generations can enjoy and learn from them. These resources provide a vital link to our Nation's origins, and provide firsthand experiences at the places and locales where the broad patterns of our Nation's history were played out. As First Lady Laura Bush stated when she launched Preserve America: "Our land is the foundation upon which the American story is written. . . When we are able to walk the same trail that Lewis and Clark once did, history comes alive." Where the physical traces of the past cannot be preserved in place, the scientific information will be collected and preserved in public museums where visitors and researchers can access it.

The BLM's Cultural Resource Management program will continue to consult with tribal and Alaska Native governments as part of its responsibility to federally recognized tribes and their members. The BLM consults with tribes where issuance of use permits may harm or destroy a property of cultural or religious significance. These consultations help the BLM in identifying sacred areas and traditional use areas, providing for access, and determining the disposition of cultural items covered by the *Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act*.

The BLM is responsible for millions of museum objects derived from the public lands housed in three federal and at least 160 non-federal museums located in 33 states and Canada. The BLM provides funding, guidance, and assistance to these non-federal museums, while they provide expertise and access to researchers and the public.

## 2004 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2004, the Cultural Resource program attained or exceeded targets for all but two of its workload measures. Planned accomplishments in cataloging BLM museum objects were not attained. The Billings Curation Center based their estimate on having two interns available to

catalog museum objects, but one intern backed out as did the replacement. BLM also failed to attain targets for cultural and paleontological permits issued; since permit issuance is demand-driven, it is difficult to predict this workload. Exceeding targets is largely attributable to the large corps of volunteers and cooperators who assist BLM. Historically, 8 to 12 percent of all volunteer time donated to the BLM benefits the Cultural Resource program. Additionally, more than 100 Challenge Cost-Share and assistance agreements help fund heritage resource activities each year. Volunteers and cooperators contribute about $2.20 for every federal dollar allocated to these programs. Partners and volunteers assist in stabilization, recordation, inventory, protection, interpretation, research, public outreach, cataloguing collections, and monitoring.

The number of cultural and paleontological properties restored and protected has increased in recent years. This is specifically the result of an additional $195,000 in annual funding provided by Congress since 2002. Fifty-three restoration projects on "at-risk" properties have been funded to date. The number of cultural and fossil properties actually restored and protected in 2004 was 571, although the complexity and cost of restoration varies greatly. Some protection merely involves posting signs, while others entail large-scale and costly stabilization.

In 2004, major accomplishments in the Cultural Resource Management program included the following:

- ***Cultural Resources Data Sharing Project*** – BLM's National Programmatic Agreement streamlining Section 106 compliance has resulted in data-sharing agreements with State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO) to deliver automated or GIS-based cultural property data. Known as the Cultural Resources Data Sharing project, BLM assists SHPOs automate their cultural resource inventories and make those inventories available to the BLM electronically. A total of $300,000 in BLM funding is provided annually from seven different programs. Funding is allocated to SHPOs in the Western States, who match BLM's contribution on a one to one basis with non-BLM funding. The automated inventories and GIS databases expedite compliance with Section 106 for a wide range of BLM land use authorizations.

- ***Landscape Level Studies –*** Between 2001 and 2004, BLM's Planning program has funded 16 landscape level studies at a cost of $800,000. These studies are compilations of existing cultural, paleontological, or ethnographic information based on many years of inventory. This data is incorporated into BLM's next generation of land use plans to avoid impacts to significant heritage resources, including areas of traditional cultural importance to American Indians. The development of this data expedites future land use authorizations by identifying areas suitable and unsuitable for development.

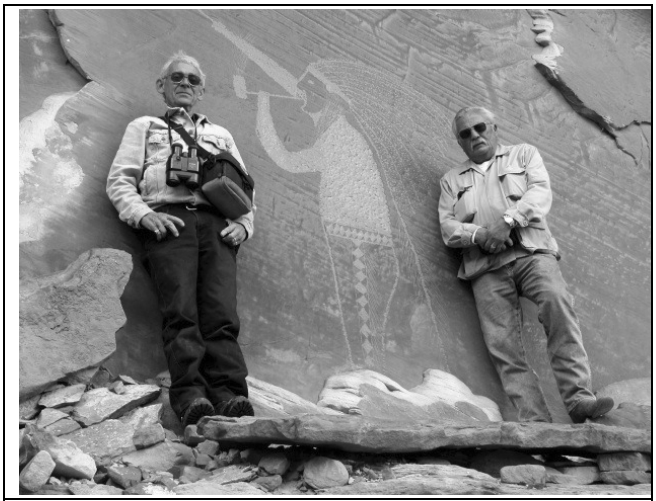
- ***Paleontological Studies –*** Paleontological work undertaken in 2004 continued to contribute to our understanding of the Earth's past. New fossil finds were documented in Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming. Ongoing research in the Big Horn Basin of Wyoming is contributing to a greater understanding of ancient climate changes recorded in the fossil record and the sedimentary rocks. A dinosaur discovery in Alaska is shedding new light on the connection of North America with Asia during the Cretaceous. In California, new horse and camel species, the largest California tortoise, and

important non-marine bird fossils were recovered. Ongoing research in Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah has yielded a new ceratopsian dinosaur and discovery of hadrosaurs preserved by a mummification process.

Cooperation between BLM and regional museums in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, as well as involvement of volunteers studying and preparing collections, are leading to important new public exhibits. In 2004, the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science and BLM posted the Museum's collections on-line. Approximately half of the collection comes from public lands and is now accessible to researchers, the general public and educators from around the world. The "Hall of Giants," a new Jurassic hall opened in August 2004 featuring actual bones from Seismosaurus and Saurophagnax, both from public lands in New Mexico.

- ***E.O. 13287 "Preserve America" Report -*** In 2004, BLM completed the first report required by Section 3 of Executive Order 13287 on "Preserve America," requiring each federal agency with real property management responsibilities to review its regulations, policies, and procedures for compliance with Sections 110 and 111 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and detail its progress in identifying, protecting, and using historic properties in its ownership.

- ***Cultural Resource Studies -*** Archaeological studies across BLM lands are enhancing our understanding of past cultures, and the interactions of past peoples with their environment. Excavation of prehistoric mussel middens in the Owyhee River basin in Oregon is allowing comparison of pre-European mussel species with current mussel species, and an examination of possible causes for change. Interdisciplinary research at archaeological sites in Arizona's Agua Fria National Monument is investigating the enduring affects of past human actions on the ecology of present-day arid ecosystems. The Village Project in Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients National Monument is helping archaeologists understand changing land-use strategies in small-scale farming communities which experienced significant climate change and population growth.



*Two Arizona Site Stewards visiting a historic petroglyph on the Kaibab Indian Reservation near Pipe Springs National Monument. The petroglyph is a representation of a Plains Indian, probably dating to the 1930's when the Civilian Conservation Corps was doing work nearby. These Site Stewards monitor archaeological sites on lands of all jurisdictions throughout Arizona to detect and deter looting and vandalism.*

- ***Site Stewards –*** Most monitoring of cultural properties on BLM lands is done by Site Steward Program or Adopt-a-Site volunteers. Such volunteer programs are extant in eight BLM states, either regionally or statewide. Roughly, 3,500 individual properties are monitored annually, about 5-10 percent for the first

time. The first Site Steward program was established in Arizona 15 years ago to detect and deter archaeological looting and vandalism; Arizona's program has been praised nationally as one of the historic preservation's most impressive stories in public involvement, and is serving as the model for programs in other states.

## 2005 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ESTIMATES

Key goals in 2005 will continue to be similar to those in previous years, including continuing to inventory, evaluate, protect, study, stabilize, interpret and manage cultural and fossil resources on the public lands.

The BLM will meet the 2005 targets published in the 2005 Budget Justifications, as follows:

- Percent of cultural properties in DOI inventory in good condition – 81%
- Percent of collections in DOI inventory in good condition – 100%
- Percent of paleontologic localities in DOI inventory in good condition – 90%
- Partner satisfaction scores with DOI on cultural and heritage resource partnerships – establish initial target
- Inventory cultural and paleontological resources – 25,000
- Catalog BLM museum objects – 75,000
- Process cultural/paleontology use permits – 450
- Process cultural and paleontology data – 450
- Restore and protect cultural/paleontology properties – 220
- Monitor cultural properties and paleontology localities – 2,100

In 2005, significant planned accomplishments include the following:

- ***Manuals and Handbooks*** - Completion of the manuals and handbooks for guidance in the management of both cultural and paleontological resources. Continued development of data bases and integration with GIS for fossil collections at non-Federal repositories.

- ***E.O. 13287 Preserve America Report -*** Completion of the second report required by Section 3 of Executive Order 13287 on Preserve America, compelling federal agencies with real property management responsibilities to prepare a report on its progress in identifying, protecting, and using historic properties in its ownership, and using these properties to contribute to local economic development.

- ***Adventures in the Past/Antiquities Centennial Website –*** "Adventures in the Past" is the BLM's umbrella program for education about, and citizen involvement in, the protection of America's heritage resources. To celebrate 100 years of historic preservation, or the Antiquities Centennial, that began with passage of the Antiquities Act of 1906, the legislative basis for the protection and preservation of cultural properties on federal lands, BLM has designed an "Adventures" website. This website will offer programs and activities for educators, students, "virtual travelers," heritage professionals, and recreational enthusiasts. This initiative is being undertaken in close collaboration with the BLM's Recreation, Environmental Education & Volunteers, and Public Affairs Groups.

## JUSTIFICATION OF 2006 PROGRAM CHANGES

**2006 PROGRAM CHANGES**

| | 2006 Budget Request | Program Changes (+/-) |
|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 15,240 | -75 |
| FTE | 0 | 0 |

The 2006 budget request for Cultural Resources Management is $15,240,000 and 136 FTE, a program change of -$75,000 from the 2005 level.

***Narrowband Radio Savings and Other Program Efficiencies (-$75,000) -*** In 2006, the BLM will realize significant cost savings and efficiencies within the narrowband radio program, because it will have completed the required transition from VHF to UHF radio frequencies. Also in 2006, the BLM will continue improvements in the areas of travel and transportation management, Information Technology, vehicle fleet management, and other administrative support, producing further cost savings.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

| **DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Protection** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **End Outcome Goal: Protect cultural and natural heritage resources.** | | | | | | | |
| **End Outcome Measures:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Cultural Properties - Percent of cultural properties in DOI inventory in good condition (SP: PEM.3.001) | Establish Baseline 80% 29,937/ 36,973 | 81% 35,744/ 43,892 | 81% 35,640/ 44,000 | 81% 37,665/ 46,500 | 81% 39,771/ 49,100 | 0 | 81% 46,089/ 56,900 |
| Cultural Collections - Percent of collections in DOI inventory in good condition (SP: PEM.3.002) | Establish Baseline 100% 3/3 | 100% | 100% 3/3 | 100% 3/3 | 100% 3/3 | +0.0% | 100% 3/3 |
| Paleontologic Localities - Percent of paleontologic localities in DOI inventory in good condition (SP: PEM.3.004) | Establish Baseline 90% 1,660/ 1,845 | 90% 1,724/ 1,915 | 90% 1,660 / 1,845 | 90% 1724/1915 | 90% 1787/1985 | +0.0% | 90% 1976/2195 |
| **Intermediate Outcome Goal: Increase partnerships, volunteer opportunities and stakeholder satisfaction** | | | | | | | |
| **End Outcome Measures:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Customer/Stakeholder Satisfaction - Partner satisfaction scores with DOI on cultural and heritage resource partnerships (SP: PIM.3.04.001) | Not Measured | 81% | Initial target +1.0% | 81% | 81% | 0.0% | 82% |
| **Primary Outputs funded by this Subactivity:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Inventory Cultural and Paleontological Resources (acres). | 87,600 | 68,601 | 35000* | 35,000 | 35,000 | 0 | 35,000 |
| Catalog BLM Museum Objects (number). | 60,800 | 63,860 | 75,000 | 52,000 | 52,000 | 0 | 52,000 |
| Process Cultural/Paleontology Use Permits (number). | 520 | 404 | 450 | 450 | 450 | 0 | 450 |
| Process Cultural and Paleontology Data (number). | 570 | 612 | 450 | 450 | 450 | 0 | 450 |
| Restore and Protect Cultural/Paleontology Properties (number). | 335 | 571 | 220 | 300 | 300 | 0 | 300 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Monitor Cultural Properties and Paleontology Localities (number). | 3,080 | 3,534 | 2,100 | 2,500 | 2,500 | 0 | 2,500 |

# Activity: Land Resources
# Subactivity: Wild Horse and Burro Management

**SUBACTIVITY SUMMARY ($000)**

| | 2004 Actual Amount | 2005 Enacted Amount | Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/ -) Amount | Program Changes (+/ -) Amount | 2006 Budget Request Amount | Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2005 Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 29,051 | 39,045 | +455 | -2,595 | 36,905 | -2,140 |
| FTE | 160 | 172 | 0 | -2 | 170 | -2 |

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 2006 budget request for the Wild Horse and Burro Management program is $36,905,000 and 170 FTE.

The BLM is responsible for implementing the *Wild Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act*, and currently manages approximately 37,000 wild horses and burros on the public lands, and another 24,001 animals in holding facilities. The goal of the Wild Horse and Burro Management program is to achieve and maintain healthy, viable wild horse and burro populations on the public lands.

The BLM manages wild horse and burro populations, by monitoring the animals, establishing appropriate management levels, and removing animals when the appropriate management level is exceeded. This program supports the Administration's priorities to provide for sustainable, multiple-use of the public lands, by achieving appropriate management levels of wild horses and burros. This will help to achieve healthy rangelands, and improve habitat conditions for all public land resource users. When appropriate management level is reached approximately 26,000 animals would be on the open range at any one time. Wild horse and burro populations increase by 20 percent a year, so to maintain healthy rangelands we must continually remove excess animals. Failing to act aggressively to achieve appropriate management levels will allow further harm to rangeland and watershed health by over grazing forage resources.

In FY 2006, the Wild Horse and Burro Management program expects to remove 10,000 animals, transfer approximately 5,800 animal titles, provide 6,500,000 days of care and feeding of animals, adopt 7,600 animals, conduct 4,100 compliance inspections, conduct census on 70 herd management areas, monitor 120 herd management areas, and achieve appropriate management level on 87% of 201 herd management areas. BLM will also continue to apply population level fertility control; will continue research on census techniques; and herd health according to the Bureau's Strategic Research Plan.

## 2004 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As a result of funding received through congressional appropriations and reprogrammings from Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 to FY 2004, the BLM has made significant progress in achieving appropriate management levels (AML) of wild horses and burros on public lands. The BLM has removed 56,188 (From MIS FY2000 thru 2004) wild horses and burros and adopted 34,182 (From MIS FY2000 thru 2004) wild horses and burros from public lands since FY 2000.

*Burros feed on plants of the desert, including grasses, Mormon tea, and Palo verde. Through capture and various adoption programs, the burros are being relocated to maintain a constant population.*

In 2004, the BLM proposed to reprogram $10.5 million within its Management of Lands and Resources appropriation to implement a new long term strategy for achieving and maintaining appropriate management levels in the Wild Horse and Burro Management Program. The proposal reprogrammed funds from numerous resource management programs that ultimately will benefit from attainment of AML.

With congressional approval to reprogram $7.6 million the BLM, removed 9,418 animals, provided 7,403,774 days of care and feeding of animals, adopted 6,407 animals, conducted 5,113 compliance inspections, conducted census on 64 herd management areas, monitored 140 herd management areas, completed necessary analysis and established the appropriate management level on 25 herd management areas, and achieved appropriate management level on 51% of 201 herd management areas. Approximately $19.2 million, a significant portion of the Wild Horse and Burro Management Program's 2004 budget, went toward the feeding and care of animals already in holding facilities.

The 2004 Strategy for Managing Wild Horse and Burros had two primary objectives:

- Removing enough wild horses and burros from the public lands achieve and maintain appropriate management levels as quickly as possible.
- Implementing more efficient management strategies in the areas of wild horse and burro preparation, long-term holding and adoptions.

The goals of this strategy were designed to improve rangeland health, improve wildlife habitat, reduce the number of emergency gathers of animals during droughts, and eliminate the need to reduce permitted livestock grazing during a drought in wild horse and burro areas. Furthermore, the strategy emphasized reaching AML as quickly as practicable as the most cost-effective long-term management plan.

The BLM has taken a number of steps to implement the wild horse and burro strategy as described below. These efforts will help establish a balanced program that is self-sufficient and precludes the need for future reprogrammings.

- Close coordination with its advisory board and the National Wild Horse and Burro Foundation to gain efficiencies in the adoption program.
- Managing the cost of gather operations and shipping to ensure animals in short-term holding facilities are handled in the most efficient manner.
- Consolidating hay and vaccine contracts, to decrease costs.
- Increasing use of contracting in the adoption program in order to increase the number of adoptions.
- Increasing use of lower-cost, contract pastures for long-term holding.
- Creating a marketing position to focus BLM's adoption efforts, in concert with the National Wild Horse and Burro Foundation.
- Continuing investigation of fertility control, which has shown promise as a population control tool.
- Implementing an overall adoption strategy to improve efficiencies in the adoption program.

The budget to implement the strategy gives first priority to increasing the number of animals removed, adopting the backlog of excess animals in holding, and then to on-the-ground herd management.

**Use of Performance and Cost Management Data in the Wild Horse and Burro Program**

Performance and cost analysis enables all offices to effectively communicate and provide specific information to a wide array of interest groups and local governments about what can and cannot be accomplished with available funds. One goal of the 2004 strategy was to find and implement more efficient management business practices within the removal, preparation, long-term holding, and adoption processes. Through extensive analysis of cost management data, The WHB National Program Office validated the improved cost effectiveness of using national contracts for removal rather than individual contracts within a state. BLM also realized a reduction in unit cost in the adoption program declining from an average of $1,451 per animal in 2003 to $1,209 per animal in 2004 while adopting 336 more animals. The savings realized from this were redirected to gathering and removal of excess horses which allowed BLM to continue to make progress toward achieving AML.

## 2005 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ESTIMATES

Congress continued to support implementation of BLM's long-term wild horse and burro strategy in 2005 by appropriating $10 million of the $10.5 million requested. The new estimated workload accomplishments for the Wild Horse and Burro Program for 2005 are discussed below.

***Herd Management -*** Conduct census on 62 herd management areas and monitor 121 herd management areas

***Gathers and Removals of Horses and Burros –*** remove 9,810 animals

***Establishment of Appropriate Management Level -*** Complete necessary analysis and establish appropriate management level on all remaining herd management areas.

*The BLM has an aggressive adoption policy for placing horses in qualified homes. All applications will be considered, with the placement based on the applicant's ability to provide the best home for the horse.*

***Achievement of Appropriate Management Level -*** Achieve appropriate management level on 79% of 201 herd management areas.

***Preparation and Holding -*** Provide 8,419,000 days of care and feeding of animals.

***Adoptions and Compliance -*** Adopt 7,100 animals, and conduct 4,150 compliance checks.

***Implementation of Section 142 of the Appropriations Act –*** The BLM is in the process at this time of developing procedures and a strategy to implement appropriation authority. The BLM estimates that 8,400 animals will be affected by this authority.

***Partnerships*** – Continue to work with the National Wild Horse and Burro Foundation to increase efficiency in the adoption program. Examples include the California Volunteer Pilot Project and looking at the overall marketing of the wild horse.

***Research*** – Continue to research and apply population level fertility control. Also, continue research on population census techniques.

## JUSTIFICATION OF 2006 PROGRAM CHANGES

**2006 PROGRAM CHANGES**

| | 2006 Budget Request | Program Changes (+/-) |
|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 36,905 | -2,595 |
| FTE | 170 | -2 |

The 2006 budget request for the Wild Horse and Burro Management Program is $36,905,000 and 170 FTE, a program decrease of -$2,595,000 and -2 FTE from the 2005 enacted level.

***Program Operations (-$2,500,000)*** –The BLM has taken a number of steps to improve its ability to place animals in good homes and will continue to work toward program efficiencies. Some of these are hiring a national marketing director; working with the National Wild Horse

and Burro Foundation to identify additional markets and to promote new ways to market the image of wild horses and burros; and increasing the number of trained animals through contracting. In the past, BLM has reduced unit costs for gathers and adoptions. The BLM believes it can bring about cost reductions in the overall program by placing more animals in good homes, reducing the number of animals in long term holding facilities, and gaining more program efficiencies. Each animal in the BLM's long term holding facilities costs approximately $500 per year. Between FY2003 and FY2004 (the last year Activity Based Costing data is available) BLM reduced its adoption unit cost from an average of $1,451 per animal to $1,209 per animal while adopting 336 more animals. BLM believes that some additional reduction in unit cost may still be realized and adoption numbers should increase. The BLM expects to reduce the number of animals in long term holding facilities in FY2005. If BLM can reduce that number by 5000 head, this along with anticipated program efficiencies, should result in a budget need in FY2006 that is approximately $2,500,000 less than the FY2005 figure.

***Program Efficiencies (-$95,000) -*** In 2006, the BLM will realize significant cost savings and efficiencies within the narrowband radio program, because it will have completed the required transition from VHF to UHF radio frequencies. Also in 2006, the BLM will continue improvements in the areas of travel and transportation management, Information Technology, vehicle fleet management, and other administrative support, producing further cost savings.

**WILD HORSE AND BURRO MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

| **DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Protection** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **End Outcome Goal: Protect cultural and natural heritage resources.** | | | | | | | |
| **Intermediate Outcome Goal 2: Manage special management areas for natural heritage resource objectives.** | | | | | | | |
| **Intermediate Outcome Measures:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Wild Horse and Burro Management Areas - Percent of Herd Management Areas achieving appropriate management levels. (SP: Non-Key) | 73% 147 / 200 | 51% 103 / 201 | 77% 158 / 206 | 79% 158 / 201* | 87% 175 / 201 | +8% | 100.0% |
| **Primary Outputs funded by this Subactivity:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actuals | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Establish AMLs for Wild Horses and Burros Herd Management Areas (number). | 7 | 25 | 17 | 30 | 30 | 0 | 30 |
| Adopt Wild Horses and Burros (number). | 6,120 | 6,407 | 7,600 | 7,100 | 7,600 | 500 | 7,600 |
| Prepare/Hold Wild Horses and Burros (number feed days). | 6,575,000 | 7,403,774 | 7,400,000 | 8,419,000 | 6,500,000 | -1,919,000 | 4,400,000 |
| Gather/Remove Wild Horses and Burros (number) | 10,000 | 9,418 | 11,500 | 9,810 | 10,000 | 190 | 5,200 |
| Conduct Census of Wild Horse and Burro Herd Areas (number). | 65 | 64 | 70 | 62 | 70 | 8 | 175 |
| Monitor Wild Horse and Burro Herd Management Areas (number). | 145 | 140 | 70 | 121 | 120 | -1 | 100 |
| Conduct Wild Horse and Burro Compliance Inspections (number). | 6,535 | 5,113 | 5,000 | 4,150 | 4,100 | -50 | 4,600 |
| *The denominator for HMA's is 201 (the 206 referenced in 2005 was made in error). | | | | | | | |

# Activity: Wildlife and Fisheries Management

**ACTIVITY SUMMARY ($000)**

| Subactivity | | 2004 Actual Amount | 2005 Enacted Amount | Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/ -) Amount | Program Changes (+/ -) Amount | 2006 Budget Request Amount | Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2005 Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wildlife Mgt | $ | 22,387 | 25,063 | +515 | +3,009 | 28,587 | +3,524 |
| | FTE | 185 | 204 | 0 | +12 | 216 | +12 |
| Fisheries Mgt | $ | 11,711 | 11,884 | +263 | +350 | 12,497 | +613 |
| | FTE | 94 | 95 | 0 | +2 | 97 | +2 |
| Total Dollars | $ | 34,098 | 36,947 | +778 | +3,359 | 41,084 | +4,137 |
| | FTE | 279 | 299 | 0 | +14 | 313 | +14 |

## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the Wildlife and Fisheries Management program is to maintain and restore fish and wildlife and their habitats by conserving and monitoring habitat conditions, conducting inventories of fish and wildlife resources, and developing cooperative management plans, while providing for environmentally responsible recreation and commercial uses. Funding for this program supports the staff that develops program, policy, and projects at all levels within the BLM. Management actions emphasize on-the ground and in-the-water actions that measurably increase the health of fish and wildlife populations and reduce the need to federally list species of fish and wildlife.

This activity supports the Department's Strategic Plan by improving the health of watersheds and sustaining biological communities. The overall goal of the fisheries and wildlife programs is to restore and maintain proper functioning conditions in aquatic, riparian, wetland, and upland systems managed by BLM, with the goal of providing suitable conditions for biological communities to flourish.

BLM is unique as a Federal land manager, the agency not only manages more Federal land than any other agency, BLM also manages the greatest diversity of habitat due to the wide distribution of our land. As a result of the extent, the geographic distribution, as well as elevational variety, no other Federal agency manages as many different types of wildlife and aquatic habitats, or as many different species as the BLM. BLM manages the majority of America's premier western landscapes, including portions of the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts in the Southwest, the sagebrush biome in the intermountain States, and portions of the northern plains and Colorado Plateau, short and mid-grass prairies, and nearly 55 million acres of forest and woodland habitats. The BLM also manages more inland fish habitat than any other

State or Federal agency, including 155,000 miles of fishable streams, more than 4 million acres of lakes and reservoirs, and thousands of isolated springs.

This program funds fish and wildlife inventories and supports aggressive habitat restoration and conservation activities, mainly through a variety of partnerships with State fish and wildlife agencies and conservation groups. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Challenge Cost Share program fund many fish and wildlife-related projects. These programs play a critical role in developing and implementing conservation plans for at-risk species such as the inland cutthroat trout, salmon and steelhead trout, sage-grouse, prairie dogs, and lesser prairie chickens. BLM's highly professional staff of fish and wildlife biologists work closely with Federal and State partners that have shared responsibilities for management of fish and wildlife resources.

*Moose are one of many big game species managed in Alaska as a Subsistence resource utilized by rural Alaskans. BLM is one of several Federal agencies in Alaska that work together to manage the Federal subsistence program for fish and wildlife habitat and species.*

***Alaska Subsistence Wildlife Management -*** In Alaska, the Wildlife and Fisheries Management programs have shared responsibilities with other Federal land management agencies to support the Alaska Subsistence program. Support is provided for Regional Subsistence Advisory Councils, population monitoring efforts, and development of regulations.

# Activity: Wildlife and Fisheries Management
# Subactivity: Wildlife Management

**SUBACTIVITY SUMMARY ($000)**

| | 2004 Actual Amount | 2005 Enacted Amount | Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/ -) Amount | Program Changes (+/ -) Amount | 2006 Budget Request Amount | Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2005 Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 22,387 | 25,063 | +515 | +3,009 | 28,587 | +3,524 |
| FTE | 185 | 204 | 0 | +12 | 216 | +12 |

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 2006 budget for the Wildlife Management program is $28,587,000 and 216 FTE.

The BLM manages 262 million acres of ecologically diverse wildlife habitat that supports over 3,000 species of big game, waterfowl, shorebirds, reptiles, amphibians, over 400 songbird species and hundreds of species of nongame mammals. One of BLM's highest priorities for 2006 will be focused on implementation of BLM's National Sage-grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy, and restoration and conservation of sagebrush habitats that support over 300 species of wildlife. Numerous petitions have been received by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to list both the greater and Gunnison sage-grouse as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The FWS recently completed a 12 month status review for the Greater sage-grouse and determined that listing was not warranted at this time. However, the Service's decision was predicated on progress being made by both State and Federal agencies in implementing conservation actions across the range of the Greater sage-grouse. In 2006, BLM's Wildlife Management program will also continue to support BLM's land use planning initiative and continue to participate in the development of conservation plans for species at-risk, including; pygmy rabbit; prairie dogs, ferruginous hawks, and their associated habitats. BLM's wildlife program supports the Department of the Interior goal to sustain biological communities by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

**Use of Performance and Cost Management Data in the Wildlife Management Program**

In 2004, the Wildlife Management program reinstated base funding for two States because they had demonstrated significant performance improvements in inventory and monitoring and as a result of improved accountability for wildlife funding expenditures. In previous years, BLM has utilized performance information to adjust funding allocations and workload targets in numerous offices.

***Sage-Grouse and Sagebrush Habitat Conservation -*** The sage-grouse is one of North America's most spectacular birds. As its name suggests, sage-grouse are entirely dependent on healthy sagebrush steppe ecosystems, which were once abundant throughout the West. Sagebrush habitats form the birds' primary source of food and shelter, and provide a setting for the birds' traditional courting ritual. Loss of sagebrush habitat has led to a corresponding decline in sage-grouse populations. A continuing loss of habitat quantity or quality over time could result in the Greater sage-grouse becoming listed under the Endangered Species Act. This would have serious ramifications on various use activities that occur on BLM lands.

*In 2006, BLM will focus on implementing actions in the Sage-grouse Strategy to prevent the listing of the species.*

The BLM administers the largest amount of remaining sage-grouse habitat held by a single entity—over 50 million acres, or approximately half of all remaining habitat. Efforts to conserve and restore sage-grouse and sagebrush habitat contribute to BLM's goal to manage for healthy and productive sagebrush communities and preclude the need to list sage-grouse or other sagebrush associated species under the Endangered Species Act.

Through a commitment to shared stewardship and cooperative conservation, the BLM can meet its multiple-use mandate and implement flexible and creative conservation measures to benefit multiple species. The BLM will continue to work cooperatively across administrative boundaries to address the health and recovery of sage-grouse and sagebrush habitats.

During 2006, the Wildlife Management program will continue to focus on implementing actions outlined in both National and State-level BLM Sage-grouse Habitat Conservation Strategies. These strategies were developed in close cooperation with State-led sage-grouse conservation planning efforts and are designed to complement these conservation plans. Some examples of the conservation actions include: habitat assessments and monitoring; Regional Connectivity Analysis; and incorporating sage-grouse conservation and habitat restoration objectives into land use plan revisions. Regional assessments of ecosystem condition have been initiated or completed in three regions: Wyoming Basin, Great Basin, and Prairie and Plains. Regional assessments address habitat condition for many species of wildlife, including special status species, and they facilitate the development of integrated conservation and recovery strategies for large landscapes. The BLM will continue to focus on these regions; however, due to increased emphasis on sagebrush habitat and sage-grouse, the Wyoming Basin and Colorado Plateau will be the focus of regional assessments in 2006.

In 2004, the BLM initiated inventories of pygmy rabbits, a species of conservation concern that occurs within a 6-State region in the Intermountain West. Pygmy rabbits are heavily dependent on sagebrush habitats. BLM will continue inventory efforts for this species in 2005 and 2006.

***Great Basin Restoration Initiative -*** In 2006, the Wildlife Management program will continue to support the Great Basin Restoration Initiative, particularly as it relates to the sagebrush and sage-grouse strategies mentioned above.

***Conservation of Prairie Grasslands -*** The BLM manages between ten and 15 million acres of short and mixed grass prairie ecosystem in a seven-State area that extends from Canada to Mexico. No other Federal agency manages as much prairie grassland ecosystem as the BLM. Prairie Grasslands on BLM-managed public lands support 136 species of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles and 42 species of plants considered to be sensitive. Major threats in this region include loss of native grasslands to land conversion for agriculture on private lands, urban and rural industrial development, invasion by exotic species, and altered fire regimes. The BLM is completing a multiple species assessment of threats and habitat condition. It will identify specific habitat areas and species deemed relatively important on the landscape and provide information needed to target priorities for conservation planning on BLM managed lands within the entire prairie-grassland region.

*Restoration of sagebrush will also benefit the pygmy rabbit.*

In 2006, the BLM will continue to conduct inventories and habitat assessments in the central short-grass prairie and desert grasslands of the southwest. This is an ongoing effort to complete broad-scale assessments of all the grassland ecosystems on BLM lands. BLM will continue to implement conservation actions designed to enhance or maintain important grassland habitats that support over a dozen at-risk species, including black-tailed and Gunnison's prairie dogs, swift fox, mountain plovers, and numerous other birds, small mammals and amphibians.

BLM has completed comprehensive inventories of existing prairie dog complexes in nine states, worked with livestock permittees and the public in reducing shooting and poisoning of prairie dogs on BLM lands, has continued to participate in the Black-footed ferret recovery effort which has led to reintroduction of black footed ferrets on BLM lands in five states. Black-footed ferrets, an endangered species, are dependent upon healthy prairie dog communities for their recovery. BLM will continue to support prairie dog conservation actions in an effort to prevent the need to list under the Endangered Species Act. In part due to the coordinated conservation efforts of which BLM is a partner, the FWS removed the black-tailed prairie dog off the Warranted but Precluded category.

***Migratory Bird Conservation -*** In 2006, BLM will continue implementation of several strategies designed to benefit migratory birds. BLM supports and continues to participate in numerous national and regional level bird conservation initiatives and joint ventures, including Partners in Flight, the North American Shorebird Conservation Plan, North American Waterbird Plan, the Intermountain West and Northern Plains, Central Valley and Pacific Coast Joint Ventures, and several other regional initiatives that promote conservation of migratory birds through cooperation.

***Resource Monitoring -*** The BLM's Wildlife Management program supports the Resource Protection mission goal from the Department's Strategic Plan by sustaining biological communities on BLM-managed and influenced lands and waters. Each mission goal of the Strategic Plan has several performance measures to gauge progress towards meeting mission goal accomplishments, including end outcome goals and measures, intermediate outcome goals and measures, and primary outputs. Key to achieving these goals is our ability to monitor progress. BLM is developing a national monitoring strategy, of which the wildlife program will play a central part in this strategy. In 2005 to 2006, the BLM is identifying key land health indicators at various geographic scales, refining assessment and monitoring tools in order consistently measure change, and implementing pilot projects to test our strategies.

During 2006, the BLM will support the following types of projects:

- ***Alaska –*** A Federal and State interagency management team will implement a multi-phased monitoring and management plan for the Mulchatna Caribou herd. The herd is currently between 170,000-220,000 animals and has been in decline for past two years. User conflicts and dependence on the herd for subsistence by over 50 rural communities, as well as the sport hunting supported by the air taxi economy, make this a high priority. Plan efforts will include seasonal distribution, age and sex composition, productivity, and harvest monitoring. Capture operations will also be used to test physiological parameters, disease and collaring.

- ***Arizona –*** The Tucson Field Office will be completing an inventory of public lands within the Tucson Resource Management Plan area for significant bat roosts including roosts for the federally listed lesser long-nosed bat and a variety of bats on the state list of species of special concern. Knowledge about locations of and use of bat roost sites is also important information when considering alternatives for route designations, recreation site development, range or wildlife improvement projects, land use permits, and land tenure adjustments.

- ***Colorado –*** BLM in Colorado is implementing several projects designed to remove encroaching pinyon/juniper trees in order to set back succession and enhance sage-grouse habitat. Sage-grouse will likely reoccupy these areas once the trees have been removed.

- ***Nevada –*** Very little is known about nesting, brood-rearing and winter habitat use in the Mt. Grant portion of the Mono-basin sage-grouse population of west-central Nevada and adjacent east-central California. This project will determine habitat use by trapping and fitting summering sage-grouse with radio telemetry collars and monitoring the movements of the marked birds over a continuous five year period.

- ***Oregon –*** In cooperation with Oregon State University and FWS, a project is proposed to characterize greater sage-grouse landscapes in Oregon, Idaho and Nevada. The investigations compare grouse habitats in stronghold areas with those where population declines are reported. Habitat measures of sagebrush community vertical and horizontal variability at the fine scale and at the landscape level will be investigated and described. There is a critical need to clarify certain questions about habitat at multiple scales and

habitat variability if sage-grouse and sagebrush community wildlife are to be effectively managed.

- ***Wyoming –*** Elk is one of the key monitoring species for the Jack Morrow Hills Planning area. A representative sample of the Steamboat elk herd will be monitored to determine the effects of oil and gas development and the threshold for use and abandonment of an area. Monitoring elk will allow for adaptive management of the area and minimize impacts of development on elk.

## 2004 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2004, the BLM exceeded some of its goals for primary outputs, but did not meet other output goals. Planned accomplishments were exceeded in ten of 18 of primary output areas due to the following:

- BLM completed over 150,000 acres of applied shrub/grassland treatments, doubling the 74,000 planned for in 2004. The Bureau constructed 158 shrub, grassland, woodland, and forest projects out of a planned 130, and maintained 1,166 projects versus a projected 600 projects. All of these increases were due to the increased emphasis on sage-grouse habitat conservation including sagebrush and grassland restoration.
- The Bureau planned to monitor 50 miles of stream/riparian habitat but actually monitored 73 miles. This increase was due to the continued emphasis on riparian and aquatic species including the desert pupfish, bulltrout, salmon, Lahontan cutthroat trout, Colorado River cutthroat trout and southwestern willow flycatcher.
- The Bureau planned to monitor 1,575 species populations but was able to monitor 2,184 due to increased sagebrush and sage-grouse conservation and restoration activities.
- A total of 4,236 lake and wetland treatments were completed compared to the 2,200 acres that were planned. The increase was due to unforeseen partnership opportunities.
- The Bureau inventoried 3,270,000 acres of shrub, grasslands and pinyon juniper, almost a million acres over the planned 2,300,000 acres. Again, this was due to the increased emphasis on sage-grouse habitat conservation including sagebrush and grassland restoration.
- The Bureau planned to monitor 4,000 acres of lake and wetland habitat but actually completed over 16,000 acres. The increase was due to unforeseen partnership opportunities.

Primary outputs were not met in eight of 18 primary output areas due to the following:

- The wildlife program planned to inventory 4,700,000 acres, but only completed 3,678,781 acres of wildlife and plant habitat.
- The wildlife program planned to monitor 215,000 acres of shrub and grassland vegetation treatments but only completed 65,377 acres due to shifting priorities towards species populations monitoring and inventory of shrub, grassland, and pinyon juniper habitats.
- The Bureau planned to inventory 200 miles of lake/wetland acres but actually inventoried 55 miles. Inventories of lake/wetland acres were reduced due to local on-the-ground changes in priorities

- The Bureau planned to monitor 10,000,000 acres of terrestrial habitat but actually monitored just over 7,200,000 acres. The decrease was due to a greater emphasis put on completing up-to-date inventories for sage-grouse and other sagebrush dependent species as part of BLM's commitment to address sage-grouse in land use plans and other conservation planning efforts.
- The wildlife program was unable to meet its planned targets for work associated with invasive and noxious weeds. The Bureau had planned to inventory 50,000 acres of rangelands for the presence of invasive and noxious weeds. Weed treatments were to be conducted on 500 acres. Also, weed treatments were to be evaluated on 1,000 acres. There has been confusion related to the appropriate program element to use for coding of this work. Guidance will be issued during 2006 to clarify this issue.

Minor increases in outputs were seen for construction and maintenance of lake, wetland, stream, riparian projects and the construction of lake, wetland, stream, riparian projects. Minor decreases in outputs were seen for implementation of species recovery/conservation actions. These changes were due to local on-the-ground changes in priorities; commitment of personnel to other Bureau priorities, and a redistribution of work between the priority outputs.

- ***Arizona -*** BLM has completed inventories of black-tailed prairie dog habitat on public lands in Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and New Mexico and has made good progress in completing inventories for both the white-tailed and Gunnison's prairie dogs that are found in Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Arizona. In Arizona, BLM is working with Arizona Game and Fish for future reintroductions of Black-tailed prairie dogs on BLM lands in south-central part of the state.

- ***Colorado -*** BLM monitored habitat changes on 5,000 acres of mule deer and elk habitat to ensure management objectives are being achieved. This project provided critical winter habitat for elk, deer, and migratory birds. Monitoring included: 1) livestock grazing use; 2) terrestrial wildlife habitat monitoring; 3) climate and soil monitoring; and, 4) Aquatic habitat monitoring. Some of the issues requiring intensive monitoring included: the Gunnison Sage-grouse being listed by the FWS as a candidate species under the Endangered Species Act, and the Gunnison Basin supporting the only remaining viable population; and, the field office involved manages the majority of the critical winter habitat for elk and deer in the Gunnison Basin. This project includes riparian areas that provide habitat for bald eagles, the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher and a variety of neotropical migratory birds.

- ***California -*** BLM rehabilitated waterfowls nesting islands in Pilgrim Lake waterfowl nesting island rehabilitation projects were completed in the Eagle Lake Field Office.

- ***Idaho -*** In the Idaho Birds of Prey national Conservation Area, BLM repaired and restored existing recreation sites and mitigated recreation and OHV-related environmental disturbance near adjacent gateway communities. Regulatory signs were installed and one-half mile of OHV-caused trail damage was restored to mitigate impacts to nationally significant cultural properties and sensitive plants. 1,000 acres of shrub/grass vegetation treatments were completed.

- ***Idaho -*** BLM completed a mid-scale sagebrush mapping project in cooperation with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to provide the mid-scale fish and wildlife information necessary for conservation and land use planning.

- ***Oregon -*** In 2004, 500 acres of shrub/grass vegetation treatments were completed in Oregon's Steens Mountain area. Critical mule deer winter range and sage-grouse habitat has been largely eliminated due to the increased fire frequency and loss of sagebrush habitat. As a result riparian vegetation has been reduced, lowering water quality standards for threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. Restoration in this project includes: 1) collection and propagation of native plant material; 2) restoration, or planting, of islands ranging from ~10 to 200 acres of native perennial grasses, forbs and shrubs; 3) establishing vegetative fuel breaks of perennial grasses along existing roads and areas in cooperation with private land owners to reduce the rate of wildland fire spread; 4) stabilizing sites from soil erosion and invasive species (cheatgrass/noxious weeds); and, 5) facilitating active and passive restoration of native plant communities and fish and wildlife habitat.

- ***North Dakota -*** BLM completed surveys on golden eagle, ferruginous hawk, and prairie falcons. These species have not been formally surveyed in North Dakota since the early 1980s. Total acreage surveyed was approximately 200,000 acres. This project updated current nest information and identified new nests.

- ***Utah -*** Several restoration projects were completed on the Sevier River Valley in central Utah. That included prescribed fire, weed treatments, seedings, and vegetation treatments using a Dixie harrow. In 2004, 900 acres were treated to remove pinyon and juniper and to reduce sedimentation. A Dixie harrow and reseed treatment was completed for sage-grouse and pygmy rabbits in the watershed of approximately 500 acres.

- ***Wyoming and Montana -*** BLM made significant progress on a regional habitat assessment for the northern prairie grasslands, an area that covers eastern Montana, the western portions of the Dakota's, and northeast Wyoming. This broad-scale assessment will provide BLM State and Field Offices with spatial data and analysis for species and habitats at risk over this geographic area. In 2005, BLM anticipates increasing field verification of the remotely sensed data that is used in habitat analysis, preparing state-specific reports and products that can be used by local managers, providing local training to resource professionals working on site-specific land use plans, and developing guidance on the use of the information in the planning process.

In order to address the conservation needs of the lesser prairie chicken and sand dune lizard, the BLM is cooperating with a broad based stakeholder group to develop a conservation strategy for these species in Southeastern New Mexico. The working group consists of a variety of conservation, sportsmen's, ranching, and oil and gas interests, as well as, state, Federal, and county agencies. The overall working group and several subgroups have been working hard to address the varied interests and issues associated with developing a comprehensive conservation strategy. The group is drafting the overarching strategy document. While the conservation strategy process has been underway, the BLM and other participating partners are moving forward with conservation efforts. BLM has initiated a comprehensive reclamation effort to restore habitat to suitable condition. The BLM is working closely with oil

and gas interests on all phases of development including reclamation activities. Close cooperation with livestock growers has been particularly important especially in light of long-term drought conditions. The conservation strategy development process assisted agencies and private interests by focusing efforts in a common direction to achieve greater results than they would have individually.

## 2005 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ESTIMATES

In 2005, BLM's Wildlife Management program will meet its planned workload targets as identified in the 2005 Budget Justifications. Planned accomplishments that were presented in the 2005 President's Budget were revised for six performance areas based on feedback from State and field offices. In all but one case, planned accomplishments were reduced because the 2005 President's Budget planned accomplishments were too ambitious based on BLM capabilities. The number of acres of wetland habitat to be monitored was increased. Additionally, the shift in priority to inventory, monitoring, and treatment of sagebrush habitat has also caused reductions for some planned accomplishments.

With the completion and release of BLM's National Sage-grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy and increased funding for this initiative, the BLM will aggressively pursue implementation. Planned work includes completing assessments of habitat conditions, monitoring sage-grouse habitat and populations in cooperation with State wildlife agencies, working closely with BLM's fire management specialists and planners on fuels management activities, working closely with BLM's rangelands resources program to coordinate range improvement and maintenance projects along with BLM's energy and minerals programs in implementing Best Management Practices.

In addition, BLM will continue to work with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in development of the Range-wide Conservation Strategy and integrating those actions applicable to BLM into state and local conservation planning efforts whenever feasible and developing livestock grazing BMPs. A key to addressing sagebrush and sage-grouse habitat conservation on BLM lands is thorough development and implementation of land use plans that adequately address conservation and management needs at the local level. BLM will continue to work closely with the public and our conservation partners in the land use planning process. Examples of State and Field Office planned accomplishments include:

- ***Colorado -*** A vegetation management project is planned that will treat 3,000 acres by prescribed fire and 300 acres by mechanical treatment over a five-year period to improve habitat conditions for sage-grouse and big game.

- ***Montana*** - Sage-grouse winter range and other habitats will be evaluated throughout Field Offices in Montana in cooperation with other agencies. BLM will work with the University of Montana to evaluate nutritional values of winter forage and pursue the potential to develop a habitat predictive model.

- ***Nevada -*** In the Elko Field Office, approximately 3,000-5,000 acres of old age class stands of sagebrush within watersheds prioritized through the sage-grouse habitat would be treated

as part of the Nevada Sage-grouse Conservation Strategy. Prescribed fire and/or other mechanical means would be used to improve age class structure of sagebrush overstory and improve herbaceous understory diversity.

- ***Utah*** – The Bald Hills habitat restoration project area encompasses over 100,000 acres that are important sage-grouse and big game habitat. BLM is working with the State, private landowners to implement restoration projects in this 40,000 acre watershed that are designed to restore historic sage-grouse habitat and create connectivity corridors allowing sage-grouse to once again move easily between the Greenville Bench and the Bald Hills.

BLM will also continue to emphasize conservation planning and implementation for species at-risk within the prairie grasslands. This includes completion of the BLM's Prairie Grassland Assessment for central and southwest desert grasslands along with implementation of numerous local conservation projects that vary from inventories and monitoring for prairie dog and swift fox populations, integrating conservation actions into BLM land use plans for grassland dependent species such as Mountain plovers, pronghorns, Ferruginous hawks, and the lesser prairie chicken.

BLM will continue to monitor lesser prairie chicken habitats and use in New Mexico where some of the last remaining habitat occurs on public lands. Through the use of prescriptive brush control, BLM will also explore land management options for optimizing habitat for lesser prairie chickens while concurrently preserving a ranching tradition on the high plains of eastern New Mexico. This is a species that has severely declined in the past two decades. Conservation efforts by the BLM and other conservation partners are vital to keeping the Lesser prairie chicken off the list of federally protected threatened or endangered species. Listing of this species would impact a variety of currently authorized activities on BLM and private lands.

## JUSTIFICATION OF 2006 PROGRAM CHANGES

**2006 PROGRAM CHANGES**

| | 2006 Budget Request | Program Changes (+/-) |
|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 28,587 | +3,009 |
| FTE | 216 | +12 |

The 2006 budget request for the Wildlife Management program is $28,587,000 and 216 FTE, a program change of +$3,009,000 and +12 FTE from the 2005 enacted level.

***National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (-$493,000) -*** The NFWF is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization established by Congress in 1984 and dedicated to the conservation of fish, wildlife, plants, and the habitat on which they depend. The NFWF receives congressionally appropriated funding annually from BLM and, through partnerships established by BLM, provides grants for conservation projects. The reduction will fund the program at the 2004 level

and will allow BLM to target more funding to its highest priority within the program, sagebrush conservation and restoration

***Sustaining Biological Communities – Sagebrush Conservation and Restoration (+$3,604,000)*** - The BLM is requesting an additional $3,604,000 for implementation of BLM's National Sage-grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy, which has been developed and is being implemented in cooperation with State-led sage-grouse conservation plans.

The BLM's National Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy is organized into five major goal areas:

- Develop a consistent and effective management framework for addressing conservation needs of sage grouse on public lands.
- Increase BLM's understanding of resource conditions and priorities for maintaining and restoring habitat.
- Expand available research and information that supports effective management of sage grouse habitat.
- Develop partnerships to enhance effective management of sage grouse habitats.
- Ensure leadership and resources are adequate to implement national and State-level sage grouse habitat conservation strategies.

Included with these five major goal areas are a series of specific strategies and actions that will support implementation of each goal. Each action identifies responsible offices and time-frames for completion. In 2006, the additional funding will be used to accelerate habitat inventory for sage-grouse and other sagebrush dependent species such as pygmy rabbits, another species of conservation concern in the sagebrush biome. To help identify and prioritize restoration needs, BLM plans on expanding inventories for noxious weeds, treating an additional 100 acres of noxious weeds, completing an additional 10,000 acres of vegetation treatments to benefit sage-grouse habitat quality or reduce degradation from expanding juniper woodlands into sage-grouse habitat, and increasing the acres of habitat monitored by approximately two million acres. BLM will also monitor an additional 10,000 acres of vegetation treatments.

***Narrowband Radio Savings and Other Program Efficiencies (-$102,000) -*** In 2006, the BLM will realize significant cost savings and efficiencies within the narrowband radio program, because it will have completed the required transition from wideband to narrowband technology. Also in 2006, the BLM will continue improvements in the areas of travel and transportation management, Information Technology, vehicle fleet management, and other administrative support, producing further cost savings.

**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

| **DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Protection** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **End Outcome Goal: Sustain biological communities on DOI managed and influenced lands and waters in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allotment and use of water.** | | | | | | | |
| **Intermediate Outcome Goal 1: Create habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.** | | | | | | | |
| **Intermediate Outcome Measures:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justifications | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Habitat Restoration - Number of acres restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation consistent with management documents and program objectives. SP | Not Measured | 158,500 | 19,000 | 9,000 | 10,000 | +1,000 | 40,000 |
| Habitat Restoration - Number of stream/shoreline miles restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation consistent with management documents and program objectives. SP | Not Measured | 585 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,315 | +15 | 2,400 |
| **Primary Outputs funded by this subactivity:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justifications | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Inventory Shrub/Grasslands/ PJ (acres). | 3,675,000 | 3,270,179 | 6,000,000 | 5,000,000 | 7,000,000 | +2,000,000 | 8,000,000 |
| Inventory for Presence of Invasive and/or Noxious weeds (acres). | 2,150 | 0 | 25,000 | 2,150 | 2,500 | +350 | 25,000 |
| Inventory Lakes/Wetland Areas (acres). | 2,250 | 55 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 0 | 200 |
| Inventory Wildlife/Plant Habitat (acres). | 9,985,000 | 3,678,781 | 10,000,000 | 10,000,000 | 12,000,000 | +2,000,000 | 15,000,000 |
| Apply Shrub/Grassland Vegetation Treatments (acres). | 248,000 | 150,825 | 100,000 | 100,000 | 110,000 | +10,000 | 150,000 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Construct Shrub, Grassland, Woodland, Forest Projects (number). | 130 | 158 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 0 | 200 |
| Maintain Shrub, Grassland, Woodland, Forest Projects (number). | 560 | 1,166 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 0 | 800 |
| Apply Weed Treatments (acres). | 0 | 0 | 500 | 400 | 500 | +100 | 0 |
| Apply Lake/Wetland Treatments (acres). | 4,160 | 4,236 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 0 | 2,000 |
| Construct Lake/Wetland/Stream/Riparian Projects (number). | 10 | 13 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Maintain Lake /Wetland /Stream/Riparian Projects (number). | 200 | 78 | 40 | 40 | 40 | 0 | 40 |
| Implement Species Recovery /Conservation Actions (number). | 17 | 22 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 0 | 50 |
| Evaluate Weed Treatments (acres). | 0 | 0 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 1,000 | 0 | 1,000 |
| Monitor Lake/Wetland Habitat (acres). | 15,900 | 16,800 | 5,000 | 7,000 | 7,000 | 0 | 7,000 |
| Monitor Stream/Riparian Habitat (miles). | 29 | 73 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 0 | 50 |
| Monitor Terrestrial Habitat (acres). | 9,770,000 | 7,208,487 | 12,000,000 | 12,000,000 | 14,000,000 | +2,000,000 | 16,000,000 |
| Monitor Species Populations (number). | 1,530 | 2,184 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 0 | 1,700 |
| Monitor Shrub/Grassland Vegetation Treatments (acres). | 98,500 | 65,377 | 175,000 | 100,000 | 120,000 | +20,000 | 175,000 |

# Activity: Wildlife and Fisheries Management
# Subactivity: Fisheries Management

**SUBACTIVITY SUMMARY ($000)**

| | 2004 Actual Amount | 2005 Enacted Amount | Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/ -) Amount | Program Changes (+/ -) Amount | 2006 Budget Request Amount | Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2005 Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 11,711 | 11,884 | +263 | +350 | 12,497 | +613 |
| FTE | 94 | 95 | 0 | +2 | 97 | +2 |

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 2006 budget for the Fisheries Management program is $12,497,000 and 97 FTE.

While the Fisheries Management program supports proactive habitat restoration and conservation activities, mainly through partnerships with Federal, State and non-governmental organizations, an increased emphasis for the Fisheries program is to provide support to other programs. The Fisheries program provides support for the BLM's top priorities of the National Energy Plan, sage grouse and sage brush habitat projects, recreation, National Landscape Conservation System, mining, grazing and rangeland management, the wild horse and burro program, forest management, and wildland fire management. This is accomplished primarily through participation in the planning process, conducting Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultations, and monitoring aquatic conditions associated with implementation of actions within those other programs.

The fisheries program supports the Resource Protection mission goal of the Department's Strategic Plan by sustaining biological communities on BLM-managed lands and waters. Each mission goal of the Strategic Plan has several performance measures to gauge progress towards meeting mission goal accomplishments, including end outcome goals and measures, intermediate outcome goals and measures, and primary outputs. Key intermediate outcome measures of performance include increasing acres and stream-miles restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions consistent with management plans, program objectives, and applicable requirements. The fisheries program also supports the Recreation mission goal of the Strategic Plan by working with other agencies and organizations to promote outdoor recreation on, and increase access to, BLM-managed lands and waters.

**Use of Cost and Performance Information In the Fisheries Management Program**

Cost Management data provides a basis for understanding the cost of the components of the Fisheries Management program, such as inventory, project development and project maintenance.

Each year, the targets for outputs can be adjusted using average unit cost data and other program information to achieve outcomes. In 2004, flexible funding amounts were adjusted based on an evaluation of performance which evaluated unit cost and total workload output commensurate with their organization. No adjustment was necessary for the 2004 funding cycle.

The BLM manages lands that directly affect over 117,000 miles of fish-bearing streams and 3 million acres of reservoirs and natural lakes. Fish-bearing waters on BLM lands are diverse, ranging from isolated desert springs harboring populations of rare and unique fishes and invertebrates, to areas of large interior Columbia River tributaries supporting anadromous and resident fishes of exceptional regional and national value. These waters also support subsistence fisheries that sustain Native American cultural heritage, as well as fisheries providing recreational opportunities for the burgeoning human population of the western States.

*BLM is actively restoring habitat and decommissioning roads in the Headwaters Wilderness project to benefit native cutthroat trout and Pacific salmon.*

***Clean Water and Watershed Restoration –*** The Clean Water Act of 1987, as amended, establishes objectives to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's water. Riparian and wetland areas are key components of retaining and releasing clean water for downstream users. The BLM places a high priority on the sustainable management and improvement of riparian and wetland systems and uplands. Funding for the Fisheries program in 2006 will continue efforts to enhance clean water, conserve and restore native fisheries habitat, restore flood plain function, reduce non-native vegetation, and remove roads causing sedimentation. Following are examples of the types of projects that will receive funding in 2006:

- ***Alaska –*** BLM will estimate the total abundance and run timing of summer-run chum salmon in Caribou Creek using a remote time-lapse video recorder. Caribou Creek is used by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as an index stream to monitor salmon escapement in the Koyukuk River of the Yukon Basin. Aerial index counts of salmon escapement in both

Caribou and nearby Clear Creek from 1975 to 1991, at which time they were stopped due to safety reasons. This project will supply the BLM with critically needed data on the actual number of spawning salmon using this important spawning area as well as the contribution that this degraded system may have had to the overall summer chum salmon production within the Hogatza Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and the Yukon Basin. These data will be used to construct scientifically sound management objectives necessary for the completion of the Hogatza ACEC Aquatic Habitat Management Plan.

- ***California –*** The Arcata Field Office will continue to remove approximately 30 miles of abandoned logging roads within the Headwaters Reserve over a five-year period. These roads are a legacy from past logging of old growth redwoods, and are located at the bottom of hillsides, on highly unstable terrain, next to streams that support salmon and steelhead which are listed under the ESA. Work is conducted in partnership and cooperation with a variety of local, state and Federal partners, and contracts with local equipment operators that have specialized in this type of restoration.

- ***Idaho –*** An assessment of road conditions and potential for sediment input to streams will be completed to verify the information presented in the Lemhi total maximum daily loads. Funds will be used to bring roads into conformance with Best Management Practices and to reduce impacts from sedimentation. This project will ensure completion of restoration activities identified during ongoing road inventories and implementation of travel management revisions identified in the 2001 Lemhi Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amendment. Projects will include 50 miles of road improvement and maintenance, stream crossing stabilization, road closure and relocation, vegetation of roadsides and impacted floodplains and protection of critical habitat.

- ***Montana –*** Sampling of macroinvertebrates will be conducted in conjunction with riparian condition assessments to establish a baseline for water quality. Furthermore, this effort will assist in the investigation of the potential to a correlate riparian proper functioning condition assessment methodology and aquatic bug data to provide for an aquatic health assessment methodology. If proper functioning condition riparian data are correlated with macroinvertebrate indices, then a low-cost, rapid assessment methodology for measuring watershed health may be developed.

***Resource Monitoring –*** Resource monitoring continues to be an emphasis in the BLM fisheries program. BLM will continue to participate in a Department sponsored initiative to standardize monitoring protocols. These efforts, which will answer resource questions at a variety of scales, will be piloted for fisheries resources in 2006. Monitoring allows the BLM to protect natural resources, document species occurrence, and assess the functioning condition of fisheries resources. The following are examples of the types of resource monitoring projects that will receive funding in 2006:

- ***Alaska –*** In Alaska, funds will support initial development and testing of Geographical Information System (GIS) products and data analyses using existing data sets and data systems. This project will provide: 1) GIS products such as maps and analysis using existing land cover, hydrography, elevation, and watershed spatial data sets; 2) data analysis products; 3) continued development of analysis and reporting capabilities; 4) maintenance of

developed GIS tools; and, 5) maintenance of existing data systems, such as the Wildlife Observation System and Aquatic Resource Information Management System.

- ***Arizona –*** A native fish habitat inventory will be conducted in the perennial streams of the Aquarius Mountains to determine the presence or absence of special status species of fish, particularly roundtail chub, speckled dace, Sonora sucker, and desert sucker. Inventory of BLM sensitive and Arizona State listed fish species will allow the Bureau to develop land management priorities and potentially develop resource management activities for depleted populations in this area.

- ***Colorado –*** The Uncompahgre Field Office will implement a strategic and systematic monitoring program for 50% of the streams in the Uncompahgre District. Assessments of water quality, aquatic habitat, and riparian and channel condition will be conducted. Funding will provide more comprehensive, consistent and relevant data for identifying habitat improvement needs, compliance with RMP riparian designations, compliance with Land Health Standards, and improved management for the endangered Colorado River fish species. Many new monitoring stations will be established, and old ones updated. Stream monitoring will improve the quality of project assessments and management decisions made within these landscapes that impact stream systems. Approximately 50 miles of stream monitoring, 30 miles of aquatic habitat monitoring, two riparian projects, and five miles of riparian treatments will occur each fiscal year.

- ***Nevada –*** The Elko Field Office will partner with U.S. Geological Survey to collect vital stream flow information in the Upper Humboldt Basin. These data are critical for assessing the impacts of rest and improved grazing systems on stream flows within the 520 square mile watershed. This monitoring effort will facilitate an evaluation of the ecological effects of irrigation diversions within the watershed, the long-term stream flow response within the Marys River basin, and the impacts of reduced in-stream flows to Lahontan cutthroat trout.

## 2004 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2004, the BLM met or exceeded most of its goals for planned accomplishment, but did not meet several output goals in the Fisheries Management Program. Planned accomplishments included inventory of water resources, wetlands, and riparian areas; riparian and wetland treatments and projects; construction and maintenance of lake, wetland, stream and riparian projects, and monitoring of lake and wetland habitat.

Planned accomplishments were exceeded in five of 13 areas for a number of reasons. In general:

- During 2004, the BLM completed 9,500 acres of watershed assessments compared to a planned 2,500 acres because of an improved understanding by field staff on how to code watershed assessment accomplishments.
- A total of 603 miles of streams or riparian areas were inventoried versus the 500 miles that were planned, because field crews in Idaho and Colorado were able to survey more stream miles due to unanticipated increases in efficiencies.

- Treatments were applied to 2,240 acres of wetland habitat, which is an increase of 1,584 acres above the 656 acres that were planned. The target was exceeded due to a partnership opportunity that developed In Alaska. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game partnered with the BLM to fertilize 2,000 acres within Salmon Lake.
- During 2004, The BLM monitored 1,737 miles of riparian habitat, compared to the 1,000 miles that were planned, due to increased emphasis on monitoring to determine if management actions are accomplishing the desired effects.
- Three hundred twenty nine species populations were monitored, which is 49 populations above the 280 populations that were planned. This difference is due to increased capabilities during 2004 for monitoring populations.

Planned accomplishments were met or almost met in the following work areas:
- A total of 124 of 130 planned miles of riparian treatments were completed.
- Seventy-two of 75 planned wetland or riparian projects were completed.
- A total of 117 wetland or riparian projects were monitored in 2004, compared to the 100 that were planned.
- Twenty-three species recovery or conservation actions were implemented compared to 20 planned.
- The BLM was able to conduct monitoring of all 95 water resources that were planned.

Due to a shift towards completing more miles of riparian and stream monitoring, planned accomplishments were not met for the following areas of work:
- During 2004, the BLM planned to complete and inventory of 150 water resources; however, only 45 were completed.
- The BLM planned to inventory 3,528 acres of wetland habitats; however, only 1,106 acres were completed. A total of 2,940 acres of wetland habitats were monitored in 2004, compared to the 978 acres that were actually completed.

Other major accomplishments in the Fisheries Management program included the following:

- ***Aquatic Indicators of Land Condition*** - The BLM continues to partner with Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University on the Aquatic Indicators of Land Condition study. This series of projects is investigating the feasibility of using aquatic macroinvertebrates in quantitative, science-based indicators of watershed health. These indicators will support the BLM Monitoring Strategy and may function as a model for rapid, cost-effective land health assessment methodology.

- ***California –*** The Arcata Field Office fisheries program provided critical input to the RMP for the Headwaters Forest Reserve. Management emphasis includes first and foremost the management and protection of federally listed species and their habitats, not least of which are native steelhead and salmon. Management for these species includes extensive restoration of previously logged acreage within the reserve. Resources are intensively focused on the reduction of sediment into salmon spawning streams, achieved mainly by decommissioning road systems that are no longer necessary. Restoration of the Headwaters Reserve provides a critically needed source of viable spawning habitats for threatened and endangered anadromous fish.

- ***California –*** The Redding Field Office is documenting the success of its fish habitat restoration projects on Lower Clear Creek, a key waterbody in the effort to restore Pacific salmon runs. In 2004, both the Central Valley fall-run chinook and Central Valley spring-run chinook showed escapement estimates of 200% (16,071 and 111, respectively). Since 1998 the Redding Field Office has cooperated with Bureau of Reclamation, Western Shasta Resource Conservation District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service, and many other partners to improve Clear Creek spawning habitat (8 river miles), flood plain function, and riparian and upland condition (60 acres).

## 2005 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ESTIMATES

The Fisheries Management program has revised the 2005 planned targets published in 2005. Funding decreases resulting from two rescissions will decrease the BLM's ability to accomplish all of the 2005 planned accomplishments identified in the 2005 President's Budget. Habitat restoration and resource monitoring are integral functions of the BLM fisheries program. Funds will be used to support the following types of monitoring, inventory and restoration projects:

- ***Wyoming*** – Funding will be spent on inventory and monitoring of fish habitat conditions in coordination with the implementation of Standards and Guidelines on grazing allotments and in association with the implementation of energy development plans. This species inventory work supports land management and activity plans for specific areas. Funding will also be used to maintain completed fisheries habitat improvement projects, especially exclosures on streams for sensitive fish species, and to conduct life history work on sensitive fish species in the Muddy Creek drainage south of Rawlins, Wyoming. The latter project will be conducted in cooperation with the University of Wyoming.

- ***Utah*** – Funding will be used to provide suitable habitat for fish and other aquatic species in the numerous wetlands, lakes, and streams administered by the BLM. These include ten federally listed species, six species of concern, and several native trout species with considerable recreational importance. The restoration of aquatic habitats in Utah contributes to the likelihood of delisting of many ESA listed species. Restored habitats are also providing new recreational fishing opportunities on BLM-managed waters, thus Utah's fisheries program is developing support among local government agencies, private conservation organizations, and the general public.

- ***Oregon*** – Funding will be used for several efforts to monitor water quality and inventory riparian and aquatic resources. The BLM will implement the Effectiveness and Implementation Monitoring Modules in the Columbia River basin PACFISH aquatic conservation strategy area. The BLM will continue to inventory culverts that may be barriers to fish passage.

The BLM will implement restoration projects committed to in the All-H Columbia River salmon strategy, including restoration in the following priority subbasins: McKenzie; Wenatchee/Yakima; Entiat; South Fork John Day; and, Lower Grande Ronde. Culverts will continue to be assessed, prioritized, and replaced. New projects will be monitored. These activities will allow the BLM to

meet commitments in biological opinions and meet the BLM commitments made in response to the findings of the GAO review for culverts and fish passage.

## JUSTIFICATION OF 2006 PROGRAM CHANGES

**2006 PROGRAM CHANGES**

| | 2006 Budget Request | Program Changes (+/-) |
|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 12,497 | +350 |
| FTE | 97 | +2 |

The 2006 budget request for the Fisheries Management program is $12,497,000 and 97 FTE, a program change of +$350,000 and +2 FTE from the 2005 enacted level.

***Columbia River Salmon Recovery (+$400,000)-*** An increase of $400,000 will be used to accelerate salmon habitat recovery on Federal lands to help address the overall loss of habitat and degraded habitat quality in the Columbia River Basin. It will help the BLM meet its commitments for tributary habitat management as described in the Federal Hydropower System Basin-wide Salmon Recovery Plan. This multi-agency plan was developed to help address impacts on salmon created by the operation and maintenance of Federal hydropower facilities in the basin. BLM restoration work will improve conditions and enhance survival of these economically and culturally important, ESA-listed fish. Efforts will enhance coordination and cooperation among Federal, State and local resource management agencies to ensure consistency in approaches and focus on the highest priority work, and will provide greater opportunities to work collaboratively with communities and industry partners in meeting resource objectives. Restoration work is consistent with the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project science assessment, and will focus on making changes to other land management activities and on on-the-ground habitat improvement work. Highlighted activities include modifying grazing allotment strategies, obliterating roads or improving road surface and drainage, making fish passage improvements through barrier culverts, working with irrigators to reduce fish entrainment at irrigation diversions, and enhancing spawning gravel and cover for instream habitat. The BLM will continue to fund research on fish passage issues within the basin and to perform restoration activities to increase access to habitats made inaccessible by manmade obstructions. Some of the projects that may receive funding in 2006 include:

- ***Idaho*** – This project will fund restoration and evaluation of extensive stream habitat systems that have been artificially fragmented by agricultural ditches and diversions. Cooperation and collaboration with local communities and industries allows for increases in wetted habitat and, thus, increased production of federally listed salmon, bull trout and cutthroat trout. The aggressive schedule for reconnection of habitats will restore eight bull trout, steelhead and cutthroat trout populations in the Pahsimeroi basin by 2012. This project meets BLM's ESA Section 7 commitment of restoring currently unoccupied habitats through stream reconnections, adjustments to stream diversions, livestock exclosures, and irrigation improvements.

- ***Oregon*** – In partnership with the agricultural communities on the North Fork of the John Day River, the BLM will install modern fencing on 20 miles of sensitive salmonid habitat. This fencing will allow for the appropriate management of grazing activities while protecting anadromous fish spawning and rearing habitat as well as big game winter range. It will also encourage responsible recreational use of adjacent private lands.

***Narrowband Radio Savings and Other Program Efficiencies (-$50,000) -*** In 2006, the BLM will realize significant cost savings and efficiencies within the narrowband radio program, because it will have completed the required transition from wideband to narrowband technology. Also in 2006, the BLM will continue improvements in the areas of travel and transportation management, Information Technology, vehicle fleet management, and other administrative support, producing further cost savings.

**FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

| **DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Protection** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **End Outcome Goal: Sustain biological communities on DOI managed and influenced lands and waters in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allotment and use of water.** | | | | | | | |
| **Intermediate Outcome Goal 1: Create habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.** | | | | | | | |
| **Intermediate Outcome Measures:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Habitat Restoration - Number of acres restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation consistent with management documents and program objectives. SP (reporting cumulative) | Not Measured | 158,500 | 19,000 | 9,000 | 10,000 | +1,000 | 40,000 |
| Habitat Restoration - Number of stream/shoreline miles restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation consistent with management documents and program objectives. SP (reporting cumulative) | Not Measured | 801 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,315 | +15 | 2,400 |
| **Primary Outputs funded by this subactivity:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justification | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Inventory water resources (number). | 80 | 45 | 182 | 55 | 43 | -12 | 43 |
| Complete watershed assessments (acres). | 13,000 | 9,500 | 14,000 | 14,000 | 14,000 | +0 | 14,000 |
| Inventory Lakes/Wetland Areas (acres). | 256,000 | 1,106 | 3,528 | 1,106 | 1,106 | +0 | 1,106 |
| Inventory Streams/Riparian Areas (miles). | 1,100 | 603 | 574 | 690 | 690 | +0 | 690 |
| Inventory Wildlife/Plant Habitat (acres). | 80,000 | 1,276 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Apply Lake/Wetland Treatments (acres). | 350 | 2,240 | 656 | 2,240 | 2,240 | +0 | 2,240 |
| Apply Stream/Riparian Treatments (miles). | 80 | 124 | 134 | 128 | 139 | +11 | 128 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Construct Lake/Wetland/Stream/ Riparian Projects (number). | 50 | 72 | 86 | 83 | 83 | +0 | 83 |
| Maintain Lake/Wetland/Stream/ Riparian Projects (number). | 70 | 117 | 100 | 117 | 117 | +0 | 117 |
| Implement Species Recovery/Conservation Actions (number). | 16 | 23 | 28 | 31 | 45 | +14 | 45 |
| Monitor Lake/Wetland Habitat (acres). | 400 | 978 | 2,940 | 978 | 978 | +0 | 978 |
| Monitor Stream/Riparian Habitat (miles). | 1,390 | 1,737 | 1,023 | 1,835 | 1,935 | +100 | 1,935 |
| Monitor Terrestrial Habitat (acres). | 500 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Monitor Species Populations (number). | 220 | 329 | 247 | 247 | 264 | +17 | 247 |
| Monitor water resources (number). | 200 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 95 | +0 | 95 |

# Activity: Threatened and Endangered Species Management

**ACTIVITY SUMMARY ($000)**

| | 2004 Actual Amount | 2005 Enacted Amount | Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/ -) Amount | Program Changes (+/ -) Amount | 2006 Budget Request Amount | Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2005 Amount |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 21,940 | 21,144 | +530 | -102 | 21,572 | +428 |
| FTE | 182 | 180 | 0 | 0 | 180 | 0 |

## ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The 2006 budget for Threatened and Endangered Species Management is $21,572,000 and 180 FTE.

The goal of the Threatened and Endangered Species Management program is to maintain functioning ecosystems, restore habitats for special status species and implement management actions that contribute to achieving a stable or increasing trend in the resident populations of native plants and animal species listed or proposed for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing, or designated as sensitive by BLM. Funding for this program supports the staff that develops program, policy, and projects at all levels within the BLM.

The Threatened and Endangered Species Management program supports the Department's Strategic Plan goals for Resource Protection by improving the health of watersheds and landscapes and sustaining biological communities on Department managed and influenced lands and waters. The first goal will be achieved by restoring and maintaining proper function to watersheds and landscapes. The second goal will be achieved by creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish and by managing populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species. The BLM strives to improve the health of terrestrial and aquatic habitats of special status species. Sustaining common and rare biological communities at the landscape level increases the viability of protected species and minimizes the need for listing others. Appropriate and timely conservation measures are critical for preventing further population declines and ESA listing of the species. Once a species is listed, the Bureau's multiple-use mandate becomes more cumbersome as land uses become more restricted.

Public lands often provide the core habitat for special status species conservation. This becomes more important as private lands in the West become increasingly populated and demands for public land resources grow. The BLM manages 262 million acres of diverse public land that ranges from arctic tundra to desert habitats. During the last decade, there was a 200

percent increase in ESA-listed species on BLM lands. Currently, the BLM is responsible for managing more than 310 federally proposed or listed species and numerous large tracts of habitat crucial to the conservation and recovery of the threatened and endangered species.

**Use of Cost and Performance Information**
**In the Threatened and Endangered Program**

In 2004, the Threatened and Endangered Species Management Program redistributed funding to States that have demonstrated significant performance improvements. For example, funding was shifted to one State to support an aquatic species conservation biologist to address increasing ESA fisheries needs.

Because sage-grouse and other sagebrush associated species have experienced significant declines, the Threatened and Endangered Species Management program is working in concert with the Wildlife Management program to take an active role in sagebrush steppe habitat restoration; conservation and recovery planning for sage-grouse and sage-dependent species; and to complete backlog consultations on land use plans, some of which include sagebrush steppe habitat. The Threatened and Endangered Species Management program complements the efforts of the Wildlife Management program by emphasizing projects and programs that will benefit sage- grouse and sagebrush ecosystems with the goal of avoiding Federal ESA listings for either sage-grouse or other species associated with sagebrush habitat.

In 2006, the BLM Threatened and Endangered Species Management program will have five major areas of focus:

- Restoring sagebrush steppe ecosystems and prairie grassland ecosystems;
- Assessing the condition of landscapes at multiple scales to address species' conservation priorities;
- Addressing the backlog of land use plan consultations with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service, including "destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat";
- Developing threatened and endangered species conservation and recovery plans; and,
- Implementing conservation and recovery plans.

Habitat assessments, regional assessments, restoration projects, and cooperative conservation efforts will be continued throughout the sagebrush and prairie grassland ecosystems to make progress toward the program's goals. ESA consultation on land use plans will continue to be a priority workload to ensure land use plans are compliant with ESA and listed species are conserved and recovered. Examples of the types of projects proposed for funding include:

- Pygmy rabbit (petitioned for listing) surveys in California, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming, Nevada, and Montana.
- Sagebrush restoration work in Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming and California where cheatgrass is invading, pinyon-juniper is encroaching, and the general health of the sagebrush community has declined due to drought, grazing and altered fire regimes.

- Over the next five years BLM is forecasting increased energy development, much of which involves Wyoming and big mountain sagebrush communities inhabited by sage-grouse. Assessments of sage-steppe habitat and species response to development will provide the basis for accurate impact assessment and data central to the effective design and implementation of mitigation and habitat enhancement projects.
- Western states will complete the mapping of sagebrush/grasslands by classifying satellite imagery, training Geographical Information System (GIS) specialists and collecting training data.
- NSTC will continue to conduct regional (mid-scale) habitat connectivity and fragmentation analyses for sage-grouse and other species in the Prairie Plains. Additional assessments in the Wyoming Basin, Colorado Plateau, and Great Basin will be initiated or competed. Assessments will identify dominant patterns for species of conservation concern, delineate species' range, estimate habitat requirements, and identify regional threats.
- Habitat assessments and conservation strategies are being completed for many wildlife species associated with prairie grasslands, such as mountain plover, lesser prairie chicken, black-tailed prairie dogs, swift fox and other special status plant and wildlife species.
- Recovery plans for threatened and endangered species (e.g. black footed ferret, desert tortoise, Canada lynx, aplomado falcon, red-cockaded woodpecker and others) are being implemented by BLM on BLM managed lands.
- Backlog consultation will continue across all of the BLM states.
- The intern program will continue to provide support for the backlog of ESA consultation and other conservation planning efforts.

## 2004 Program Performance Accomplishments

In 2004, the Threatened and Endangered Species Management program met all of its planned accomplishments. Accomplishments included:

- A total of 1,500,000 acres of shrublands, grasslands, or pinyon-juniper habitat were inventoried. The majority of the inventories were completed in sagebrush habitats to provide managers with information that will ultimately be used to manage habitats for species such as sage grouse, pygmy rabbits, or other sagebrush dependent species.
- A total of 2,535,000 acres of wildlife, fish, and plant habitats were also inventoried, including habitats in grassland and sagebrush systems.
- Vegetation treatments were applied to shrub and grasslands. Again, the majority of treatments were implemented within sagebrush habitats to restore or enhance sage grouse habitat.
- Monitoring of shrub and grassland treatments occurred on 35,000 acres to determine the effectiveness of the treatments.
- Monitoring of terrestrial or upland habitats was accomplished on 4,800,000 acres.
- Fifteen threatened and endangered species recovery plans were implement during 2004 and 700 recovery or conservation actions identified in recovery plans were implemented.
- Riparian habitat accomplishments included: inventory of 80 miles, monitoring of 217 miles, and the completion of 60 miles of riparian treatments.
- Wetland accomplishments included the monitoring of 2,950 acres of habitat, as well as the application of wetland treatments on 60 acres.

- A total of seven wetland or riparian projects were constructed.
- The BLM accomplished monitoring of 3,000 species populations.

BLM implemented many conservation actions identified in conservation planning and species' recovery efforts. In doing so, the BLM increased the percent of species of management concern that are thriving at self-sustaining levels. A few examples of projects performed in 2004 include:

***Arizona*** – Law enforcement and natural resource staff of the Ironwood Forest National Monument constructed 3.5 miles of fencing and placed two cattle guards within the Waterman Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern to prevent destruction of the population of the Nichols Turks-head Cactus, an endangered species protected by the ESA.

***California*** – BLM administers over half of the 6.44 million acres of designated tortoise critical habitat. Populations of desert tortoise on BLM lands were monitored in the California Desert Conservation Area under monitoring protocols recommended in the Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan for the Mojave tortoise. The monitoring efforts and baseline population densities will be used as measurement of the effectiveness of Desert Tortoise recovery actions.

***New Mexico*** – Approximately one million acres of aplomado falcon habitat are undergoing analysis as required by FWS Biological Opinions related to the permit renewal process and several RMP consultations. In 2004, 150,000 acres of Shrub/Grass/Pinyon Juniper Vegetation were inventoried. As information is analyzed, it will be incorporated into land management guidance criteria to be used by various land management agencies and public land customers.

*Interns are mentored in vegetation mapping and wetland restoration on BLM lands.*

***Utah*** – 100,000 acres on the Henry Mountains Field Station were surveyed for threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Target species included the Mexican spotted owl, southwest willow flycatcher, northern goshawk, peregrine falcon, flammulated and burrowing owls, pygmy rabbit and sage grouse. Data collection included species presence/absence, population trends and reproductive success. These data will allow the Bureau to manage habitat in a manner that will help to de-list species or prevent sensitive species from being listed, and help to identify

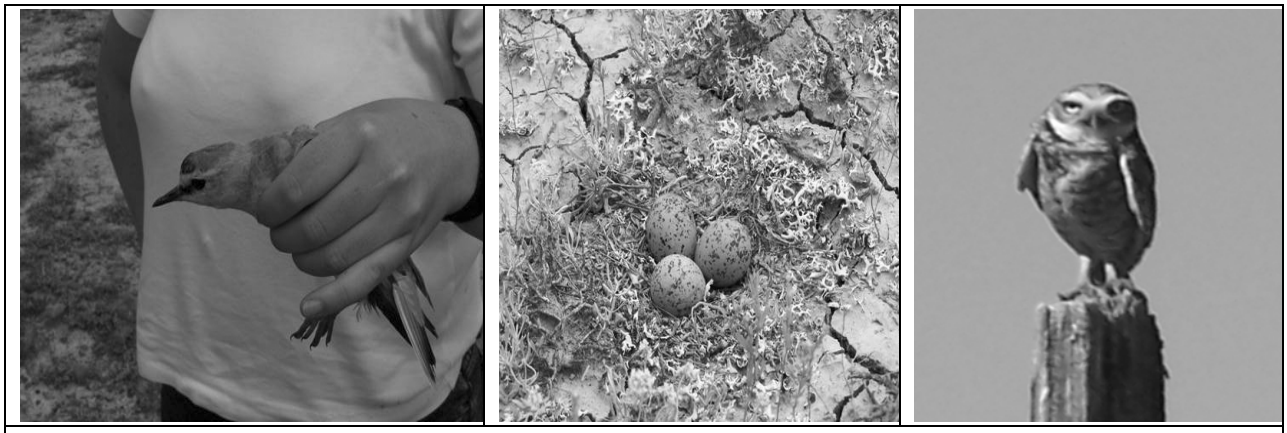
areas where management activities would be limited, not allowed, or allowed with certain stipulations.

**Bureauwide –** Twenty five interns from the Institute for Plant Conservation Biology were placed in field offices across Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Wyoming, and the Washington office to help support the backlog in ESA consultation and assist with conservation planning efforts.

## 2005 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ESTIMATES

In 2005, the BLM plans to meet all planned output established in the 2005 Budget Justifications. The BLM will meet those goals by accomplishing the following:

- Sagebrush steppe plant communities have been degraded over the last 150 years by human and livestock use and a resulting increase in wildfire and weed invasion. BLM field offices will focus on collection and cultivation of native grasses and forbs seed.
- Baseline monitoring of special status species occurrence and relative abundance associated with sagebrush steppe and prairie grasslands. Examples include: pale milk snake, hognose snake, spiny softshell turtle, mountain plover, black-tailed prairie dogs, lesser prairie chicken etc.).



*Inventory for mountain plover (left and middle) and burrowing owls (far right) in Montana will aid in habitat modeling for sensitive birds.*

- Field offices in Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, Oregon, California and Montana will treat sagebrush or grassland habitats that do not meets the standards for rangeland health.
- BLM states will cooperate with State and Federal agencies, universities, and other partners in cooperative research projects that answer land management questions. Examples include: sage-grouse response to oil and gas development and grazing, response of vegetation after fire, and other cause and effect relationships;
- Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, and Montana will continue to support prairie dog management and black-footed ferret recovery. Sonoran pronghorn, desert tortoise, valley elderberry long-

horned beetle, Uncompahgre fritillary butterfly, Vernal pool fairy shrimp, grizzly bear and others.

- Teams will select sites and collect seed for the Seeds of Success program for future restoration and rehabilitation projects. Herbarium specimens would also be collected and distributed to local herbaria.
- States will continue to address their backlog in ESA consultation with FWS in accordance with the August 2000 Interagency Memorandum of Agreement on Programmatic Consultations.
- The intern program will continue to assist BLM in completing their ESA consultation requirements, collecting field data, managing databases, and completing GIS spatial mapping and analysis.

## JUSTIFICATION OF 2006 PROGRAM CHANGES

**2006 PROGRAM CHANGES**

| | 2006 Budget Request | Program Changes (+/-) |
|---|---|---|
| $(000) | 21,572 | -102 |
| FTE | 180 | 0 |

The 2006 budget request for Threatened and Endangered Species Management is $21,572,000 and 180 FTE, a program change of -$102,000 from the 2005 level.

***Narrowband Radio Savings and Other Program Efficiencies (-$102,000) -*** In 2006, the BLM will realize significant cost savings and efficiencies within the narrowband radio program, because it will have completed the required transition from wideband to narrowband technology. Also in 2006, the BLM will continue improvements in the areas of travel and transportation management, Information Technology, vehicle fleet management, and other administrative support, producing further cost savings.

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY**

| **DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Protection** | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **End Outcome Goal: Sustain biological communities on DOI managed and influenced lands and waters in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allotment and use of water.** | | | | | | | |
| **Intermediate Outcome Goal 1: Create habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.** | | | | | | | |
| **Intermediate Outcome Measures:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justifications | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Habitat Restoration - Number of acres restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation consistent with management documents and program objectives. SP | Not Measured | 8,550 | 19,000 | 9,000 | 10,000 | +1,000 | 40,000 |
| Habitat Restoration - Number of stream/shoreline miles restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation consistent with management documents and program objectives. SP | Not Measured | 585 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,315 | +15 | 2,400 |
| **Primary Outputs funded by this subactivity:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justifications | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005 : 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Inventory water resources (number). | 0 | 25 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 0 | 20 |
| Inventory Shrub/Grasslands/PJ (acres). | 2,725,000 | 1,300,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 1,500,000 | 0 | 1,500,000 |
| Inventory Streams/Riparian Areas (miles). | 140 | 100 | 80 | 80 | 80 | 0 | 80 |
| Inventory Wildlife/Plant Habitat (acres). | 5,070,000 | 2,700,000 | 2,535,000 | 2,535,000 | 2,535,000 | 0 | 2,535,000 |
| Prepare T&E Species Recovery Plans (number). | 9 | 24 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 0 | 15 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Construct Shrub, Grassland, Woodland, Forest Projects (number). | 19 | 10 | 8 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Maintain Shrub, Grassland, Woodland, Forest Projects (number). | 115 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 70 | 0 | 70 |
| Apply Shrub/Grassland Vegetation Treatments (acres). | 0 | 3,350 | 9,400 | 9,400 | 9,400 | 0 | 9,000 |
| Apply Lake/Wetland Treatments (acres). | 0 | 247 | 230 | 230 | 230 | 0 | 230 |
| **Primary Outputs funded by this subactivity:** | 2003 Actual | 2004 Actual | 2005 Planned: Budget Justifications | 2005 Planned: Revised Final | 2006 Planned | Change in Performance (2005: 2006) | 2009 Long Term Target |
| Apply Stream/Riparian Treatments (miles). | 19 | 64 | 60 | 60 | 60 | 0 | 60 |
| Construct Lake/Wetland/Stream/Riparian Projects (number). | 3 | 9 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Maintain Lake/Wetland/Stream/Riparian Projects (number). | 48 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 9 | 0 | 9 |
| Implement Species Recovery/Conservation Actions (number). | 870 | 450 | 700 | 700 | 700 | 0 | 700 |
| Monitor Lake/Wetland Habitat (acres). | 190 | 3,950 | 2,950 | 2,950 | 2,950 | 0 | 2,950 |
| Monitor Stream/Riparian Habitat (miles). | 730 | 247 | 217 | 217 | 217 | 0 | 217 |
| Monitor water resources (number). | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 0 | 10 |
| Monitor Shrub/Grassland Vegetation Treatments (acres). | 17,800 | 25,000 | 35,000 | 35,000 | 35,000 | 0 | 35,000 |
| Monitor Terrestrial Habitat (acres). | 3,150,000 | 5,100,000 | 4,800,000 | 4,800,000 | 4,800,000 | 0 | 4,800,000 |
| Monitor Species Populations (number). | 4,475 | 2,700 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 0 | 3,000 |